

## Mercy of God

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.*  
Ephesians 2:4

Living in the mercy of God is likened to an insurance policy; however, there is no better life insurance, health coverage, or retirement benefits than with God. His provisions never expire, and we are guaranteed physical and emotional healing, provided prosperity, and given eternal life. We are far greater than the angels, for we are God's children. *Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.* Jude 1:21 His Kingdom operates in the trinity of mercy, grace, and faith. Mercy and grace are an apparent part of God, and it is faith that enables man to receive of the Father. Before we talk about our part, let's begin with God's mercy.

What is mercy, exactly? Webster's dictionary defines mercy as the compassionate or kindly forbearance shown towards an offender, an enemy, or other person under one's influences; an act of kindness or favor, something that gives evidence of divine favor; blessing. This is precisely what God gives to us. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* 1 Peter 1:3 Notice this verse says, 'again'. We are reunited for a second time through the death and resurrection of His Son because of the mercy our Father has towards a people He loves, even with our disobedience. *In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.* Isaiah 54:8 It is because of God's compassionate nature that man is given mercy.

To understand God's mercy is to see it as the love and patience He expresses continuously to man. His mercy is constant without degree or dimension. It is always in place, a perfect expression of love. *For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.* Psalm 100:5 To have mercy or compassion towards someone who has done an injustice is a remarkable act of kindness.

We would find it difficult to do so by our human nature. If someone commits a wrong against us, our immediate reaction is to retaliate and seek restitution for the assault. However, when we do wrong before our Father, He shows mercy and forgives us. *But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.* Matthew 5:39 A lesson we are required to learn from the example in Christ.

From the beginning of man's existence with Adam and Eve in the garden, God has displayed mercy towards disobedience with the patience of a parent to a child. Though they disobeyed, God showed mercy and continued communicating with them daily even through the necessity of

removing them from the home He prepared for them. There are many ways that God reveals His love for His children.

When God was dealing with the Israelites after releasing them from a life of slavery, it was a display of mercy towards a wayward people that He took care of them in the desert by supplying manna from heaven to feed them. *And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.* Exodus 16:15 And when they complained of thirst, God supplied water. *Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.* Exodus 17:6 Their clothing and sandals never wore out. They were a lost generation, arrogant and unfaithful; and yet, God showed love, He showed mercy. It was never God's plan for His people to live forty years in the wilderness. Man did that to himself by refusing to accept God as their Lord.

Fast-forward and we have a nation ill-equipped in the knowledge of heavenly things and unprepared for a relationship with God because we do not know our Father as we should. When it comes to the application of God's Word, we fall short due to lack of knowledge. In our modern society, the interest seems to be more on attaining the tangible things of the world rather than procuring time with God. Even so, God continues to have mercy and patience for a people that fail miserably at expressing love for Him.

His mercy is upon us even when we do not deserve it, for it remains constant. *And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.* Exodus 33:19 Whether we do right or wrong, God's mercy never changes; it never falters or fades. *O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.* 1 Chronicles 16:34

God's mercy is not handed out by a performance of good deeds, for God is not a respecter of persons, there is no favoritism. *For there is no respect of persons with God.* Romans 2:11 Mercy is upon the sinners and the saints; however, it is the saints who will reap the benefits when we understand the mercy of God.

Another aspect of mercy is forgiveness. If not for God's mercy, how could we be forgiven our sins and transgressions towards Him and others? By what means would He apply forgiveness if He first did not have compassion. When we repent, we know our sins are forgiven. We take this transformation from sinner to saint far too lightly without consideration of the enormity of what has transpired through God and His Son.

We want all God has to offer with an unconditional expectation but are reluctant to reciprocate. It takes a desire to want to know Him and an earnest longing to be with Him. Just as we seek and fall in love with another person, we should more so desire to be with our heavenly

Father. It is far more crucial that we be committed to God than any person on earth, for it is forever.

Perhaps an analogy of the trinity can be expressed in the ingredients for baking a pie. First, you have the crust or the foundation, then you add the filling, and last the topping. The filling is the substance of the pie, grace; finishing with the topping, faith. All are necessary for the making of a good dessert. Though we may eliminate the topping (faith), the crust and filling still makes a substantial pie, just as mercy and grace are always in place by the very nature of God. The point of this illustration is to show that God remains loyal in mercy and grace, never changing even when we are nonparticipants. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, always constant.

God's mercy sets the foundation for grace, and grace is where He supplies for our needs. We are protected by mercy and provided for by grace with both harmoniously given by the Father in caring for His children.

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