

**FINALLY:** When we discover the God who forgives we must learn to forgive <sup>(10)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

*“One of God’s gifts to the church today is the ministry of inner healing. A key element in this spiritual therapy is not only receiving forgiveness from God but also giving forgiveness to ourselves. The denial of sin, the repression of sin, and the suppression of sin are not answers. The infection continues to eat at us. We need to experience forgiveness in Christ and forgive ourselves for the participation in the painful experience.”*

*Donald M. Williams, The Communicator’s Commentary: Volume 13, Lloyd J. Ogilvie, Gen. Ed. (Waco: Word Publishing, 1986), 241*

Romans 4:6-8—“just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

- 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
And whose sins are covered;
- 8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

“blessed” – Overwhelming <sup>(11)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

**“Happiness is not only a privilege, it is a duty!” - Spurgeon, 85.**

To forgive yourself, you must really discover the <sup>(12)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Micah 7:18b—“He does not retain His anger forever, ...[God] delights in mercy.”

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Answers: 1-judgment 2-hope 3-more 4-conditions 5-transformation 6-victory 7-confession 8-requests 9-7 10-ourselves 11-happiness 12-heart*

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**Pastor Christian Newsome’s Sermon  
Sunday, May 30, 2010  
“Discovering the God Who Forgives”  
Message #3 of 3 in the series, MICAH  
Bible Text: Micah 7:18-19**

Micah 7:18-19 (NKJV)—“Who is a God like You,  
Pardoning iniquity  
And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?  
He does not retain His anger forever,  
Because He delights in mercy.  
<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us,  
And will subdue our iniquities.  
You will cast all our sins  
Into the depths of the sea.”

**The Message:**

“Where is the god who can compare with you—  
wiping the slate clean of guilt,  
Turning a blind eye, a deaf ear,  
to the past sins of your purged and precious people?  
You don’t nurse your anger and don’t stay angry long,  
for mercy is your specialty. That’s what you love most.  
And compassion is on its way to us.  
You’ll stamp out our wrongdoing.  
You’ll sink our sins  
to the bottom of the ocean.”

**“Discovering the God Who Forgives”**

**Discovery #1:** Forgiveness in the Old Testament Prophets:

Micah 7:18a—“Who is a God like You,  
Pardoning iniquity  
And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?”

**IRONY:** The primary message of the Old Testament prophets was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ – but their messages were laced with truth about forgiveness.

**Exodus 34:5-7**—“Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

**Isaiah 1:18**—“Come now, and let us reason together,”

Says the LORD,

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.”

**Jeremiah 31:34**—“No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Forgiveness was the one (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel throughout the Old Testament.

**“Israel might be in great trouble and distress, her land might be trodden under the feet of invaders, her sons and daughters might be fainting in her streets; but, as her iniquity was pardoned, she had good ground for comfort...whatever there may be to cause us sorrow, if our sins are forgiven, we have good reason to be happy!”**

*Spurgeon’s Expository Encyclopedia, Volume VII (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978), 385. [A Sermon delivered at Metropolitan Tabernacle on Thursday Evening, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1872 – “The Secret of Happiness”]*

### **Discovery #2:** Forgiveness in the New Testament:

Spiritual healing in the New Testament is always presented as (3) \_\_\_\_\_ important than physical healing.

**Mark 2:5**—“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

Forgiveness is not conditional, but it does carry

(4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 8:10-11**—“When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

**11** She said, “No one, Lord.”

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Forgiveness is intended to bring about (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**II Corinthians 5:17**—“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

**I Corinthians 6:9a; 11**—“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God...11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

### **Discovery #3:** Forgiveness in My Life:

A Christian cannot live in spiritual (6) \_\_\_\_\_ without discovering and celebrating forgiveness.



**God’s man may get in sin, but he will not stay in sin. That is what distinguishes God’s man from the man of the world. A sheep may fall in the mud, but he will struggle out of it as soon as he can.”**

*J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible: Volume II (Nashville: Nelson, 1982), 210; 213.*

The moment of forgiveness begins with (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

**I John 1:9**—“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**James 5:16**—“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”

The one who needs forgiveness (8) \_\_\_\_\_ it.

### **The Bible’s Greatest Request for Forgiveness – Psalm 51**

David specifically asks for some type of forgiveness no less than (9) \_\_\_\_\_ times in the first 9 verses!

#1: Blot out my transgressions – v. 1b

#2: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity – v. 2a

#3: Cleanse me from my sin – v. 2b

#4: Purge me with hyssop – v. 7a

#5: Wash me – v. 7b

#6: Hide your face from my sins – v. 9a

#7: Blot out all my iniquities – v. 9b