



# Seeking the Heart of God

“The God Who Delights In Forgiveness”



# Forgiveness Begins In The Heart Of God

# We Sin Against God

When we hurt others by doing wrong in thought, word or action, it is a sin against God.

The word “sin” means “*to miss the mark.*”  
God’s holiness is “*the mark,*” the standard of right and wrong, good and evil.

God alone is our ultimate and final judge.



## Psalm 51:1-4 (NIV)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

# God Delights In Forgiveness.

Micah 7:18-19 (NIV)

*Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?*

*You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.*

*You will again have compassion on us;  
you will tread our sins underfoot and  
hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.*



# We Are All Sinners!

Romans 3:23-24 (NIV)

*“...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
and are justified freely by his grace through the  
redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

# Willie McGee, AKA - E.T.



**Major League Debut**

**May 10, 1982**

**He never touched the ball  
with the Bat.**

## **Career Stats**

**1985 NL MVP. 2 time NL  
Batting Champion, 4 time  
All-star, 4 time Golden  
Glove, BA. 295, OPS.729**



# Once A Sinner, Always A Sinner

- Willie McGee's batting average could never be perfect after his first "Strike out." on May 10, 1982.
- From the moment of my first sin, I could never be perfect in holiness, having never sinned.
- Being sinless and being forgiven are very different.
- Forgiveness is a gift from God through Jesus.
- Receiving forgiveness begins with an acknowledging of our sin and faith in God who can forgive sin.



# Without Repentance, There Can Be No Forgiveness

Acts 3:19 (NIV)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins  
may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may  
come from the Lord

# Repentance is Good News

- Notice that “repent” is an imperative, a command.
- To repent is to change direction with a sense of Godly sorrow. It’s a change in belief and action.
- Acts 3:19 says the direction that repentance should take is to “*turn to God.*”
- Then, it says our, “*sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*”





## Psalm 51:17 (NLT2)

The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

*“a broken and repentant heart”*

Repentance Is Not Just An Isolated Action  
Regarding An Isolated Act Of Sin.

It Is A State Of Mind And A Way Of Life In  
Relation To Our Sinful Ways.

We don't minimize our sin!



The background image is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the vibrant colors of the sky. A wooden pier with several vertical posts extends from the right side into the water. In the middle ground, a range of mountains is visible, with some peaks covered in snow and others appearing dark. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a dramatic palette of reds, oranges, and purples. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Why Would Sinning Against God  
Cause Us To Have  
*“a broken and repentant heart”?*

# Because Of Our Relationship With Him.

- God is Father and We are His Children.
- Jesus is our Brother, Friend and Intercessor.
- Holy Spirit is Indwelling, Ever Present, Encourager, Comforter, Empowerer and Convicter.





# James Taylor Sang Of A Great Truth. “You Got A Friend.”

John 15:15 (NIV)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

# Knowledge Is Not Enough.

We need a friend to keep us from the desire to sin.

We have to have some emotion involved in the battle against sin and the desire do what is good. We must appeal to our Affection and Loyalty and Concern for others.





Relationship Makes All The Difference

One Is Breaking A Law.

The Other Is Breaking A Heart.

# We Can Set Our Hearts At Rest

1 John 3:18-20 (NIV)

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us.

For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.



# Our Response To Forgiveness Is To Love In Truth.

- John's first letter emphasizes the life of love that is expected of God's people.
- We are to love God because God loves us.
- We are to love others because God loves them.
  - Love "in truth" is expressed in actions.
- When we live this way, we can set our hearts at rest because God knows our hearts.

# Some Believe God Forgives But Still Do Not Feel Forgiveness.

- Forgiveness of sins is essential to life with God!
- The feeling of relief from being forgiven is not!
- Stories of two seekers of God.
  - One would not accept the fact without the feeling.
  - The other accepted the fact of forgiveness while occasionally still feeling the guilt of past sins.



# Forgiveness Must Be “Paid Forward”


“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us....For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:12,14-15

As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died. Acts 7:59-60



Our Forgiveness Flows From  
The Very Heart Of God  
To Us.



The background image is a scenic landscape at dusk or dawn. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds that are illuminated from below by a low sun, creating a vibrant palette of deep reds, oranges, and purples. These colors are reflected in the calm water of a lake or bay. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible, their peaks partially covered in snow and also reflecting the warm light of the sky. In the foreground, a wooden pier or dock extends from the right side into the water. The pier is supported by several dark wooden posts. A small, dark figure of a person can be seen standing on the pier, looking out towards the water and the mountains. The overall mood is contemplative and serene, with a strong emphasis on the play of light and color in the natural world.

If We Are To Be Imitators Of God,  
Forgiveness Must Flow From Our  
Hearts, The Forgiven,  
To Others.

