

SAS: FORGIVENESS (PART 1): God's Eternal Forgiveness in Jesus *"Forgiveness" by Toby Mac featuring Lecrae*

Let's imagine the "perfect person"? We can think of a whole list of "don'ts" - things that this perfect person would never think, say or do. When we look at that list, we can quickly 'realize, "I'm not a perfect person." None of us are perfect, ***We've all stepped across that line. We all make mistakes sometime.*** We've all done things on this list & that's not good. These things have an impact on us, on those around us & on our relationship with God.

But we can't go on with blinders on, pretending that that our bad thoughts, words & actions are OK. **1Jn 1:8** *If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts.* So Toby says, ***"Man you can go and play it like you're all rock and roll. But guilt does a job on each and every man's soul. And when your head hits the pillow with the nightfall. You can bet your life that it's gonna be a fight y'all."*** When the sun goes down & we're all alone in bed & alone in our thoughts – BAM, the guilt hits us! We have to get real & fess up. Like the guy in the skit who wasted his father's wealth pursuing the party life. He **REALIZED** how he's mistreated his dad & followed the path to destruction. He **REALIZED** that he needed forgiveness. This is the first step in forgiveness. We **must REALIZE** our mistakes, errors, sins etc. We must **REALIZE** we need forgiveness: a new start, a clean slate.

The second step is to **CONFESS** your sins to God. Be specific about what you've done. **1Jn 1:9** *But if we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.*

Third, **ASK** Him to forgive you But who do we ask for forgiveness? In the story, the son went back to the father, who was already looking for the son to come back. We need to ask our Father God; He is the one we wronged & He is the one who can truly forgive: not an impersonal dead idol, or a star or the universe. We need to go to God alone. Our song tonight said, ***"And we all stumble and we fall. Bridges burn in the heat of it all. But nothing's sweeter than the day, sweeter than the day we call out for forgiveness."***

Our song tonight said ***"And God forgave me for it all, Jesus bled forgiveness."*** Nothing in the universe but the precious blood of Jesus earned forgiveness for us (**1Jn 1:7b**) *And the blood of His Son Jesus washes all our sins away.* So, **RECEIVE** God's sweet gift of forgiveness. It is sweet, precious & renewing. ***"Cause we all make mistakes sometimes & we've all stepped across that line, but nothing's sweeter than the day we find Forgiveness, forgiveness."*** Nothing you've done is beyond the forgiving grace of God!

So once we **REALIZE, ASK & RECEIVE** forgiveness, are we done? No, we need to **ACT** on that forgiveness. We must live in the light of God's truth & freedom. **ACT** on your forgiveness. Don't go back to redoing deeds of darkness of your past (**2Pt 2:22**), remain in the light of God (**1Jn 1:7, Phil 2:15**). Again, here's the proven, godly formula to move on from the downward spiral of sin, guilt, shame:

- 1.) **REALIZE** you need forgiveness from God first & foremost
- 2.) **CONFESS** your sins to God & be specific
- 3.) **ASK** God to forgive you, trusting that Jesus' blood is the all-sufficient payment for your sins
- 4.) **RECEIVE** God's forgiveness, allow Him to forgive you, don't doubt it & not forgive yourself
- 5.) **ACT** on it, live out your forgiveness & be a light in the world instead of darkness; don't return to the sinful, harmful thoughts, words & actions that caused you to need forgiveness in the first place.

BIBLE VERSES

1Jn 1:7b *And the blood of His Son Jesus washes all our sins away*

1Jn 1:8 *If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts.*

1Jn 1:9 *But if we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.*

1Jn 1:10 *If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His word has no place in our hearts.*

2Pt 2:22 *"A dog will come back to lick up its own vomit. A pig that has been washed will roll in the mud."*

1Jn 1:7 *If we say that we share in life with God & keep on living in the dark, we are lying & are not living by the truth. But if we live in the light, as God does, we share [true fellowship] in life with each other. And the blood of His Son Jesus washes all our sins away.*

Phil 2:15 *...you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you define forgiveness in your own words?
2. What are some bad, harmful or hurtful things that people do today that require forgiveness?
3. Read 1Jn 1:8 & 1Jn 1:10. Is God's forgiveness still important in this world today? Why or why not?
4. Read 1Jn 1:7b & 1Jn 1:9. Is there anything that is unforgiveable by God?
5. The Toby Mac song tonight said, *"We all make mistakes sometimes, we've all stepped across that line... And we all stumble and we fall. Bridges burn in the heat of it all."* What are some things that you've done in your life that require forgiveness?
6. The song goes on, *"but nothing's sweeter than the day we find forgiveness."* Have you ever received God's forgiveness & what was the result of your being forgiven by God?
7. Read 2Pt 2:22, 1Jn 1:7 & Phil 2:15. Part of God's forgiveness plan is **acting** on your forgiveness. Why is this so important?
8. Our song ended by saying, *"No matter how lost you are, no matter how hurt you are, no matter how wrong you are, no matter who you are, you're not that far, you're not too far from forgiveness. Ask for forgiveness."* Does anyone want to receive forgiveness God's tonight? It all starts by knowing God & trusting in Jesus' blood sacrifice for you.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dear God, we need You. We need Your forgiveness. We confess that we've sinned against you in our thoughts, words & actions. We trust in You and in the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, as total payment for all of our sins. Forgive us & help us to accept Your love, grace, mercy & forgiveness. Help us to also forgive ourselves. Keeps us from falling back into the sins of the past. Let us be lights for You in this dark world. We love You & thank You! Amen!

-FORGIVENESS lyrics on back of this paper-

FORGIVENESS by Toby Mac featuring Lecrae <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfkhqpl81NA>

**Cause we all make mistakes sometimes, And we've all stepped across that line
But nothing's sweeter than the day we find forgiveness, forgiveness**

**It's hanging over him like the clouds of Seattle, and rainin' on his swag fallin' deeper in his saddle
It's written on his face. He don't have to speak a sound. Somebody call the five-o we gotta man down**

**Man you can go and play it like you're all rock and roll, but guilt does a job on each and every man's soul
And when your head hits the pillow with the nightfall, you can bet your life that it's gonna be a fight y'all**

**Cause we all make mistakes sometimes, And we've all stepped across that line
But nothing's sweeter than the day we find forgiveness, forgiveness
And we all stumble and we fall. Bridges burn in the heat of it all
But nothing's sweeter than the day, Sweeter than the day we call out for forgiveness**

Forgiveness, we all need, we all need, we all need forgiveness. Forgiveness, we all need, we all need

**(Mr. Lecrae) My momma told me what I would be in for if I kept all this anger inside of me pent up
My heart been broken, my wounds been open, and I don't know if I can hear "I'm sorry" being spoken
But those forgiven much, should be quicker to give it.
And God forgave me for it all, Jesus bled forgiveness.
So when the stones fly and they aimed at you just say, "Forgive them, Father. They know not what they do."**

**Man you can go and play it like you're all rock and roll, but guilt does a job on each and every man's soul
And when your head hits the pillow with the nightfall, you can bet your life that it's gonna be a fight y'all**

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But nothing's sweeter than the day we find forgiveness, forgiveness
And we all stumble and we fall. Bridges burn in the heat of it all
But nothing's sweeter than the day, Sweeter than the day we call out for forgiveness**

Forgiveness, we all need, we all need, we all need forgiveness. Forgiveness, we all need, we all need

**No matter how lost you are, you're not that far, you're not too far for forgiveness
No matter how hurt you are, you're not that far, you're not too far for forgiveness
No matter how wrong you are, you're not that far, you're not too far for forgiveness
No matter who you are, you're not that far, you're not too far from forgiveness
Ask for forgiveness**