

# *Lesson Five: What Happens When We Believe We Are Fully Forgiven?*

**Believe it and Receive it!**

## **What Happens When We Believe We Are Fully Forgiven?**

Note: Numerous references are made in this section to passages within 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. You may wish to turn to this scripture to read these references in context.

### **1. Believe it and Receive it!**

#### **a. Believe it and you receive it!**

- i. Believe it and receive remission (forgiveness) of sins:** Acts 10:43: *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name **whosoever believeth** in him shall receive remission of sins*
  
- ii. Believe it and you are credited with righteousness (credited with perfection):** Romans 4: 20-25: *He {Abraham} staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; <sup>21</sup>And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. <sup>22</sup>And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. <sup>23</sup>Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; <sup>24</sup>But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, **if we believe** on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; <sup>25</sup>Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*
  
- iii. Believe it and you are not condemned (are pardoned):** John 5:24: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and **believeth** on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
  
- iv. Believe it and you are justified (considered the same as if you never sinned):** Galatians 2:16: *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

### **2. We can recognize the true value of our forgiveness**

#### **a. Recognize the magnitude of your sins**

- i. Review “How Serious Is Our Sin?”**
  
- ii. Review God’s commands to see how often we sin.**

**b. Recognize the high cost of forgiveness**

- i. The Son of God had to die!:** **2 Corinthians 5:14:** *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if **one died for all**, then were all dead: **Acts 20:28:** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which **he hath purchased with his own blood**.*
- ii. The Son of God was made to be sin!:** **2 Corinthians 5:21:** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**c. Recognize you don't deserve it but still trust in it**

- i. We never stop sinning – even though we want to – but instead of despairing we thank God for His undeserved gift of forgiveness!:** **Romans 7:18-19:** *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup>For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ... <sup>24</sup>O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup>I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ...*
- ii. The greater the sin, the greater our burden of guilt; and the greater the blessing of forgiveness!:** **Psalms 32:1-5:** *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. <sup>3</sup>When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. <sup>4</sup>For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. <sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

**d. Recognize you don't have to hide or deny our sin**

- i. Because you are reconciled to God:** **2 Corinthians 5:18:** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*
- ii. Because our sins are not counted against (“imputed to”) us:** **2 Corinthians 5:19:** *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

**e. Understand God's “foolishness”**

- i. God chose the base things so that no one could glory in himself (i.e. by earning their own forgiveness):** **1 Corinthians 2:25-29:** *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup>For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: <sup>27</sup>But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup>And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: <sup>29</sup>That no flesh should glory in his presence.*
- ii. Christ died for us so we would gratefully live for him:** **2 Corinthians 5:15:** *And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*