

## BE FORGIVEN

*Jesus spoke: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father... "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."*

Luke 15:11-24 (NIV)

### ❖ The Power of Forgiveness:

*"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."  
Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."*

Matthew 9:6 (NIV)

#### 1. You were DEAD but now you are ALIVE.

*You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins.*

Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

#### 2. You were BLIND but now you can SEE.

*"... to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*

Acts 26:18 (NIV)

#### 3. You were CONDEMNED but now you are a NEW CREATION.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

➤ Key Truth: By accepting God's forgiveness, you receive God's POWER.

### ❖ The Promise of Forgiveness:

*"Brothers, listen! In this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins."*

1. Through His forgiveness we are made RIGHTEOUS before God.  
*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

2. Through His forgiveness our sins are REMEMBERED no more.  
*For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.*

Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)

3. Through His forgiveness we have been REDEEMED by Jesus.  
*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

- Key Truth: By receiving Jesus' forgiveness, you receive His PROMISES.

❖ The Purpose of Forgiveness:

*(God) who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time...*

2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

1. God's purpose for you is to be SAVED into His FAMILY.  
*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

2. God's purpose for you is to be SEALED with His SPIRIT.  
*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

3. God's purpose for you is to be SET APART as HOLY.  
*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

- Key Truth: By accepting God's forgiveness, you receive His PROMISES as well.