

## Do Not Let Your Sin Overwhelm You

God's mercy is greater than our sins. There is an awareness of sin that does not lead to God but to self-preoccupation. Our temptation is to be so impressed by our sin and failings and so overwhelmed by our lack of generosity that we get stuck in a paralyzing guilt. It is guilt that says: "I am too sinful to deserve God's mercy." It is the guilt that leads to introspection instead of directing our eyes towards God. It is guilt that has become an idol and therefore a form of pride. Now is the time to break down this idol and direct our attention to our loving Lord. The question is: "Are we like Judas who was so overcome by his sin he could not believe in God's mercy any longer and hanged himself, or are we like Peter who returned to his Lord with repentance and cried bitterly for his sins?" The season of spring is a time of struggle between winter and spring for dominance. It is a special reminder of our need to cry out for God's mercy.

*Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, 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 become like wool."*

**God invites into relationship and dialogue no matter what our past or present state of sin and he offers us cleansing if we will only come.**

*Ps 103:8–13 The LORD is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

**We don't have to cower before God or "get our act" together before He will forgive us. He forgives us because *The LORD is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.* His love shown so clearly in Jesus death on the cross for our sins cleanses us and gives us new life.**

**He who never forgets chooses to forget our sins and remove them from us. He does not save us in our sin but from our sins.**

*2 Corinthians 5:17–18 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*

**We are not just patched up like an old tire or have our dents banged out like an old car that has been through a lot of wrecks but we are made brand new. We are "a new creation" our shame and guilt is gone and we have new life in Jesus.**

*Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

Jesus,

Search my heart and show me where I have lacked kindness or compassions for others. Where I am holding a grudge and not forgiving a wrong. Where I have offended another and need to ask for forgiveness. Those times where I have failed to love you with all my heart and my neighbor as myself. Cleanse me and then lead me in the way of everlasting life. Amen.