

## TENDER MERCY

The Bible says God's Mercy towards us is "tender." (Luke 1:78). During His time on earth during His ministry, Jesus demonstrated mercy to many people. His heart was moved with compassion (Mark 1:41-42). He healed the sick, caused the blind to see, those who were lame (those who could not walk) walked. He raised people from the dead so they could live. In every case, His heart of compassion was touched and His Mercy towards people flowed. The Bible describes these acts of mercy in the Gospels. Jesus' mercies were new everyday with everyone and everywhere He went!

## NEVER ENDING MERCY

Just because Jesus no longer walks on Earth does not mean none of us today can find His Mercy. The Word of God (the Bible) says that God's Mercy and His Merciful acts NEVER come to an end (Psalm 136:1-26). You may feel that He has been so merciful to you so many times in life already, that you can't possibly deserve to find His mercy again in your daily life. You may feel that you have "used up" God's supply of Mercy that He has for you. But that is **not** how it works. God's supply of Mercy **NEVER** runs out. It "never ceases."

If you have never asked God to have Mercy on you for your sins and want to receive what Jesus has already done for you, just pray this simple prayer. "Lord Jesus, I now understand that you already paid the penalty I deserve from God by your death on the Cross of Calvary. Thank you for making a way for me to find mercy from God.

I ask that you come into my life now and help me live each day. Thank you. Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your Only Son Jesus to take my place and pay the price for my sins. I ask that You provide Mercy to me every day as I go through this life. Help me to recognize how often you spare me from accidents, danger and other bad things. Thank you that Your Mercy is new every morning and that Your Mercy NEVER runs out towards me. Amen."

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# God's Mercy

## Understanding it



## RECEIVING IT

## EVERYDAY MERCY

Some people struggle with understanding what mercy is. First we need to figure out what it is like to get it in our daily life. Have you ever been driving your car over the speed limit (yes, you know you were speeding!) and you get pulled over for a traffic stop by a policeman? You deserve a speeding ticket, and you get ready to for them to write and hand you one, but instead, you only get a verbal warning to "slow down". If that has happened to you, then you have experienced **mercy**. You did **not** get something **you did deserve**.

## GOD'S MERCY YESTERDAY

The Mercy of God has been in place since before the foundations of the world. He revealed His Mercy to mankind through the Israelites in the Old Testament of the bible. God had a temple on earth, His Tabernacle (Exodus 25-27) and a way for the people of Israel to experience God's mercy in a ritual of regularly applying blood to the "Mercy Seat" (Exodus 25:17-22 ). By completing this ritual in a very sacred and specific way, the people received Mercy from God. That means, they received forgiveness for their sins. In other words, they did NOT receive the punishment that they deserved. Instead, they found forgiveness from God. This "Mercy Seat" covered the sins of man, but could not take away the guilt of those sins. The ritual had to be repeated.

## MERCY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

In addition to the occasional policeman and speeding tickets, we also receive mercy from our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. There are times we do or say things to those around us and we should be in trouble for it. But when we talk to them, and apologize, they forgive us and "let us off the hook." In that way, we receive softness and tenderness from those around that we do not deserve. We receive mercy.

## GOD'S MERCY TODAY

In the Old Testament of the Bible, God had Mercy on a select few (Israelites) by the use of the "Mercy Seat." But is there a way for the rest of us to receive mercy from God today? Yes! God has provided us a way. God sent His Son Jesus. He paid our penalty that was due for each one of us. Jesus came to this Earth with the purpose to die as a sacrifice in our place *so that we will **NOT** receive what we **DO** deserve* (John 3:16). Each one of us is guilty before God and deserves to be punished for our sins. But Jesus paid our debt that was due by His death. How to we receive this kind of generosity and love towards us? All we need to do is accept what He did and THANK Him! This opens the door to receive God's mercy in our lives and restores our relationship with Him. If we choose NOT to receive what Jesus did for us, then we will pay the penalty due ourselves. We get the choice.

## WHAT IS MERCY

Mercy is benevolence, compassion, tenderness, a mildness of heart. It is a disposition that tempers justice (getting what we do deserve for our sins). It leads to getting a lighter punishment that the LAW or JUSTICE requires. In Jesus death, we don't get a lighter punishment, but we actually get NO sentence before God. In this way, Jesus is the epitome (best example) of Justice and Mercy for the whole human race, not just a select few people. Jesus' death on the Cross of Calvary both **atoned** for our sin and *advocated for Mercy at the same time*. Before Jesus came, the "Mercy Seat" covering the Ark of the Covenant was regarded as God's actual resting place in the Tabernacle, the place of atonement (Heb 9:1-18 ). The sins were covered, but not the guilt. However, Jesus' death removes not only the guilt, but also, our sins **ONCE** and **FOR ALL by His own blood, HIS PERFECT ACT OF MERCY**.

## MERCY-NEW DAILY

This Mercy of God through His Son Jesus is not only a one time gift that we receive, but is available daily. The Bible says: "The steadfast of Love of the Lord never ceases, His Mercy never comes to an end. They are new every morning (Psalms 59:16). That means that through Jesus, He is with us every day. We will never know (here on Earth) how often we receive His Merciful acts. We will never know how often He has protected us from danger or accidents or storms.