

Forgiveness

Psalm 32

Barriers to forgiveness:

- Pride – “I don’t need forgiveness because I am so good.” - (1 John 1:8-10)
- Unworthiness - “I don’t deserve forgiveness because I am so bad.” (Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- Ignorance – “I haven’t received or offered forgiveness because I didn’t know.” (Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15-17)
- Stubbornness - “I haven’t received forgiveness because I won’t forgive.” (Matt. 6:12, 14-15, Mark 11:25, Luke 6:37 Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13)

Facts about forgiveness:

- There is joy in forgiveness. (vv. 1-2, PS. 51:8, 12)
- There is torment in unforgiveness. (vv. 3-4, Ps. 51)
 - Physical distress
 - Emotional turmoil
- There is a process for forgiveness. (v. 5, Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15-17)
 - Acknowledgment of sin.
 - Confession of sin.
 - Forgiveness of sin.
- There is a time for forgiveness – Now! (v. 6)
- There are benefits to forgiveness. (vv. 7-8)
 - God’s protection and deliverance.
 - God’s instruction and counsel.

Points to Ponder:

- Don’t be stubborn: accept or extend the forgiveness of the Lord! (v. 9)
- Don’t be deceived: follow and trust the way of the Lord! (v. 10)
- Don’t be downhearted: rejoice in the righteousness of the Lord! (v. 11)