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7-5-2024

THE GOD OF A SECOND CHANCE

Throughout the scriptures we see the mercy of God shown to those that have a penitent heart. We see it with David after he had Uriah killed. We see it with Daniel in the lion's den. We see it with Jeremiah when he was delivered from a cistern. We see it with Peter when he denied the Lord three times. We see it with Paul who had been a blasphemer, a murderer, and a hater of those of "the way."

One day Peter was questioning Jesus as to how often one should forgive. He asked Jesus in Matthew 18:21 **"Seven times?"** I am sure there were those that had contentions with Peter, after all he was human, just like we are. You might think that seven is a lot of times, but Jesus responded in Matthew 18:22 with **"Seventy times Seven."** Most scholars believe that was in one day. That amounts to 490 times in one day, or every three seconds. That shows us the mercy of God. It is endless!

Have you failed in your walk with God? Do you have doubts that he even loves you? Well, I can attest as one that has been there that God forgives us no matter how many times we fail him. Yes, there may be consequences to our wrong actions, but as far as God is concerned, the slate is clean once we repent.

God is a God of a second chance, a third chance, and as many chances as you need. Yet, despite this mercy, the better way to live is to choose not to allow sin to reign in our lives. Then, we live victoriously.

By the way, as Peter was told to forgive seventy times seven, we must also show that same mercy to others. When we choose to live this way, we will have no offense or bitterness in our lives. We live in the freedom of having been forgiven, and we give that same freedom to others by forgiving them!