

1 Daniel 9:9
Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him.

What is the difference between compassion and forgiveness as part of God's character?

Thank God for His compassion and forgiveness.

5 1 John 1:9
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

How good are you at confessing your sins instead of making excuses for them?

Thank God for His cleansing of your heart.

9 Colossians 1:13-14
He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Which domain do you want to live in?

Thank God that you can live in the domain of the light of Jesus.

13 Proverbs 28:13
The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.

Do you ever try to hide your sins from God? How does that work out?

Ask God to help you agree with His truth about your sin and never to try to hide it.

2 Luke 23:34
Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." And they divided his clothes and cast lots.

How are Jesus' actions during the crucifixion different from the actions of the soldiers?

Ask God to help your actions be like those of Jesus.

6 Hebrews 11:12
For I will forgive their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins.

How good are you at forgetting the hurts others cause you?

Ask God to help you get better at forgiving and letting go of the hurt.

10 Jeremiah 31:34
No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them"—this is the Lord's declaration. "For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.

Why did God intervene so that we could have forgiveness?

Thank God that He has adopted you as His child.

14 Psalm 86:5
For you, Lord, are kind and ready to forgive, abounding in faithful love to all who call on you.

Is God's forgiveness automatic, or does it depend on your response to Him?

Thank God for His blessing on future generations.

3 Hebrews 10:16-17
This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, and I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts.

Is your forgiveness of hurts like God's forgiveness?

Praise God for His covenant and forgiveness.

7 Psalm 32:1
How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

How does guilt make you feel?

Thank God that He takes away our sin and our guilt.

11 Psalm 130:3-4
Lord, if you kept an account of iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

How does God's forgiveness cause you to give Him glory?

Tell God how great He is for forgiving your sin.

15 Acts 3:19
Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out.

How do you repent of your sin and turn back from it?

Thank God for His Spirit, Who shows us our sin and enables us to repent and turn back.

4 Psalm 103:12
As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

How bad would it be if God held our sins against us?

Thank God that He removes our sins forever.

8 Ephesians 1:7-8
In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Why is the blood of Jesus vital to our forgiveness?

Thank God that Jesus died and shed His blood for your sins.

12 Isaiah 43:25
"I am the one, I sweep away your transgressions for my own sake and remember your sins no more."

How could it be for His own sake that God forgives your sin?

Ask God to help you understand more fully the wonder of His love and forgiveness.

16 Proverbs 10:12
Hatred stirs up conflicts, but love covers all offenses.

Tell about a time when a conflict got worse because of bad responses.

Ask God to help you love others and to forgive their offenses.





17 Luke 6:37
Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Who do you know who is great at not judging or condemning?

Ask God to help you to forgive others more and judge them less.

21 Proverbs 17:9
Whoever conceals an offense promotes love, but whoever gossips about it separates friends.

Do you conceal offenses or gossip about them?

Thank God that He loves to conceal offenses with forgiveness.

25 Psalm 1:1-2
How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

How well do you delight in the Lord's instruction?

Ask God to help you delight in His Word and to meditate on it more.

29 Hebrews 12:1-2
Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us.

How is your race going?

Tell God about any hindrances you need help with so you can run your race.

18 Psalm 32:5
Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Is it easy or hard for you to confess your sin, and why?

Thank God that He takes away our sin and guilt when we confess our sin to Him.

22 James 5:16
Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

What change can you make so you can have more time to pray for others?

Ask God to help you order your time so that you can pray more for others.

26 Luke 6:27
But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you,

Who are some enemies you need to love better?

Thank God for loving you, even when you were His enemy.

30 Colossians 3:12-13
Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

Are you this kind of person?

Tell God about the hardest thing in this passage for you, and ask Him to help you by His Holy Spirit to grow to be like Him.

19 Luke 17:3-4
Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Tell about a person you know who forgave someone who hurt them.

Ask God to make you a good forgiver, like He is.

23 Matthew 6:14-15
For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

Why is a forgiving heart toward others so vital to our forgiveness from God?

Ask God to help you have a forgiving heart like He has.

27 Romans 12:21
Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

Why is it easier to complain about evil than to overcome it with good?

Ask God to make you brave so you can overcome evil with good.

20 Mark 11:25
And whenever you stand praying, if you have any- thing against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing.

What is the authority God has given to all believers in this verse?

Thank God for the authority He gives you to do His work and His will.

24 Ephesians 4:32
And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. What makes you lose your passion for pressing on to know the Lord?

Who do you know who forgives easily and freely like God does?

Ask God to grow your kindness and compassion toward others, like He has shown you.

28 1 Peter 3:9
Finally, all of you be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing.

Who do you know who is always a blessing?

Ask God to make you a blessing to others.

GOD FORGIVES

Our forgiveness is only possible because of the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection on the third day. No good works or trying hard will bring us forgiveness, but only trust in the Lord Jesus and repentance from our sin. God loves to be kind, and His heart is that everyone should be forgiven. Then He wants us to become forgivers like He is! May the Word of God--the Ultimate Truth of the Universe which reveals the Ultimate Reality of the Universe, Who is Jesus Christ--take root deeply in our hearts.

1 JOHN 4:9

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

