

The Mercy of God

Psalms 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,
Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. NKJV

God is Merciful

What a benefit we have from the Holy Deity, that He is “full of compassion and abundant in mercy! Oh may we cry out with the saints, “Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning!” (Psa 59:16) Mercy is an attribute of God, which is part of His very essence. Mercy is not something God has, but something God is. He has always been merciful, is full of mercy now, and will forever be the God of all mercy! **His mercy is complete and full, never changing and infinitely abundant.** So it is said of the Lord that He is "the Father of mercies" (2 Cor 1:3), "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4), "full of pity, and of tender mercy" (James 5:11). What a beautiful characteristic of God, He is merciful!

Micah 7:18 - 18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever **but delight to show mercy.** NIV

Exodus 34:6-7 - "The LORD, the LORD God, **merciful and gracious**, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, **7 keeping mercy for thousands**, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Psalms 145:8 - 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and **great in mercy.** NKJV

Mercy is defined as “the active compassion of God to assist and provide for the miserable and bestow benefit on the needy.” **Mercy is the lovingkindness of God and His disposition of compassion and benevolence.** Mercy presupposes sin and death. Since we, as His creatures, have “all sinned and fallen short of His Glory” (Rom 3:23), we are all in need of Divine mercy. In our miserable fallen and deadly state, God has actively come to our aid and provided for our needy souls an abundant provision of eternal life and peace through Jesus Christ. Mercy is not something that we merit or earn, but is freely given of God to the miserable.

1 Peter 1:3 - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **In his great mercy** he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **Titus 3:4-7** - 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. NIV

Two kinds of mercy

1. The **general mercy** that God shows to all creation by giving them being and life, and provision to sustain life. God actively shows mercy in the granting mankind air to breathe, food to eat, and another day to live and enjoy life. These are His divine prerogative to give and to take away. But God is good to all, even to the wicked and unbelieving, God continually grants mercy. But it should be said that this **general mercy** is only of a **temporal** nature, and that it is good only for this present life. There shall be no mercy for the wicked and unbelieving beyond the grave.

Ps 145:9 - 9 The **LORD is good to all.** And **His mercies are over all His works.** NAS
Acts 17:25- because **he himself gives all men life and breath** and everything else. NIV

Acts 14:17 - 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: **He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.**" NIV

Matt 5:45 - He causes his **sun to rise on the evil and the good,** and **sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.** NIV

Rev 21:8 - 8 But the cowardly, **the unbelieving,** the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." NIV

2. The **special mercy** that God shows to the penitent and believing sinner. This mercy opens the floodgate of God's goodness to deluge our souls with eternal life and an abundant provision of peace and joy that shall be enjoyed forevermore, world without end! Through repentance from sins and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, we become the recipients of "every spiritual blessing in Christ," (Eph 1:3), and every promise that God has made is now benevolently bestowed upon us! (2 Cor 1:20) His mercy is said to be "as a father pities his child," how great is this mercy from the Holy Father? Oh dear reader, count thy blessings! This mercy shines its brightest in the forgiveness of sins. "That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them!" (2 Cor 5:19) Oh the mercy of God in passing over our sins!

Eph 2:4-5 - 4 But because of his great love for us, **God, who is rich in mercy,** 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved.

Ps 103:17-18 - 17 But **the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him,** And His righteousness to children's children, 18 To such as keep His covenant, And to **those who remember His commandments to do them.** NKJV

Nehemiah 1:5 - 5 And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, **You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,**

God requires mercy from us

In order for God to show mankind His special mercy, he asks us to also possess the divine quality of mercy. We pray "father forgive us, as we forgive those who sin against us." We do not earn God's mercy by being merciful, rather mercy is the fruit of those who have truly received His special mercy. Dear reader, how important it is for you to show mercy to others! And how blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy! (Matt 5:7) Would God forgive us a debt that we could never pay and then we choke our neighbor for ten measly dollars? May it never be! Let us be a people who are lovers of mercy. ***May it be our delight to grant pardon to those who have wronged us and forgiveness to those who hurt us!*** Then we will be children of the Most High God, children of mercy, full of good fruit!

Micah 6:8 - 8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to **love mercy** and to walk humbly with your God. NIV

James 2:13 - 13 because **judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.** Mercy triumphs over judgment! NIV

Mark 11:25-26 - 25 "And whenever you stand praying, **if you have anything against anyone, forgive him,** that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 **But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.**" NKJV

Thank God today for His mercy endures forever!