

The God of Another Chance

By Dr. Dan Cheatham, www.devotional.net

If there was ever a message that every person born onto the planet needs to hear over and over again, it is this: "GOD IS THE GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE!" The Bible teaches that God's own mercy is even stronger than His justice!

James 2:13 **"...mercy rejoiceth against judgment."**

Once I asked the Lord what G.R.A.C.E. meant. He seemed to speak to my heart "G.iving R.ebels A.nother C.hance E.very day." Part of the Grace of God, the heart of God, is His miraculous nature that motivates Him to give us another chance, and another, and another...

The Lord gave Abraham another chance after he took matters into his own hands by conceiving Ishmael through his maidservant Hagar. Another chance brought Isaac forth, the seed of promise. God gave Moses another chance after he experienced a false start as the deliverer of Israel by murdering someone. God even gave the stiffnecked Israelites another chance to enter the promised land! Time after time, our gracious Lord gave Peter another chance: another chance to catch a load of fish, another chance after denying Jesus, another chance after running his mouth off, another chance after being prejudiced against Gentiles, and another chance to be a leader in the church. Joseph was given another chance to see the fulfillment of his dreams. The divorced woman at the well was given another chance. The woman caught in an act of adultery got another chance. Paul received another chance after being a holocaust-style murderer of Christians. King David got another chance after murdering Uriah and having an affair with Bathsheba. Another Chance brought forth Solomon and the Bible book of Proverbs. Jacob got another chance to become Israel after a former lifestyle of manipulation and deception.

Though he failed to be elected in numerous less significant elections and though he experienced bankruptcy, God gave a man chance after chance, and eventually he became the President of the United States... Abraham Lincoln. Another man went bankrupt numerous times on the way to his dream and yet God didn't seem to mind giving him another chance... Walt Disney. One business man was turned down hundreds of times by groups of investors who thought his business idea was foolish... Colonel Sanders. When asked if he ever got discouraged during the 1000 times he failed trying to invent the lightbulb, Thomas Edison answered in the negative, declaring that he simply had discovered 1000 ways NOT to invent the lightbulb.

The Prodigal of Luke 15:11-32 got another chance to be a son, not just a slave as he had figured. Though his son had made an utter fool of himself in sin and wasted his father's inheritance, when he returned, his father placed a robe and a ring on him, threw a party, and restored him to his rightful dignity and original place in the family. There is no question about it then, GOD IS THE GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE!

God is not "The God of Another Irresponsible Mistake", but He is "The God of Another Chance". Place Matthew 18:21-22 and Luke 17:3,4 together and you'll see that if someone sins against us 490 times in a single day, and even the exact same sin, the Lord Jesus requires us to forgive them each time. Does God require of us what He doesn't require of Himself? Of course not! He doesn't exist by a double standard. So He is obviously quick to forgive, longsuffering, slow to anger, and of great mercy. He is the God of New Beginnings. He gives new life. He offers a Fresh Start. He does new things. He extends mercy. He creates new days and makes new horizons. He forgives AND forgets. Our Heavenly Father makes our past and our future foreigners to one another. As someone has put it, "God never consults our past to determine our future! Yesterday is in the Tomb. Tomorrow is in the Womb. Today is God's Gift to us!"

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

So, reader, I want to encourage you! You don't have a license to quit! I am crashing your "Pity-Party" as you read this. I refuse to join your "Mutual Sympathy Association." The Bible teaches that the righteous shall rise again! I say "You Are Rising Again!"

Psalms 37:23-24 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

Proverbs 24:16 "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again..."

The acid test of whether someone knows the Lord is NOT sinless perfection, but rather **BOUNCEBACKABILITY!** Believers sometimes blow it! But eventually they run to God in prayer, and God puts them back on their feet again!

Lamentations 3:21-26 "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."

Backslidden Saint... I command you to stand up like a man or woman of God, receive your forgiveness, shake off the chains, and the dust of your bitterness and **ACCEPT ANOTHER CHANCE** from the one who is married to backsliders.

Isaiah 30:15 "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength..."

Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

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

Divorced Person... I command you to quit wallowing in your feelings of failure, accept God's forgiveness, forgive yourself, and forgive your former spouse. Rise up and worship **THE GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE**. There is no where in the Bible that says divorce is the unpardonable sin. Stop camping out at your pain! Stop wallowing! The future is bright for you! God anticipated what happened to you before he even created you, and has made a way to wholeness and happiness.

Psalms 27:10 "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up."

Isaiah 54:6 "For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God."

Isaiah 62:4 "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married."

Unemployed Believer... I command you in the name of the Lord Jesus to quit drowning in feelings of

inferiority. Get up and don't quit until you find another job. You have a job! Your job is to be busy finding another job! ANOTHER CHANCE belongs to you.

Revelation 3:8 "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Wounded Minister of the Gospel... I command you in the name of Jesus to receive the Father's forgiveness, forgive yourself, and forgive the people Satan used to wound you. Receive Jesus as THE GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE, and give God's people another chance. Why sit ye there in defeat when the Word of the Lord hath gone forth? Move out from underneath the Law. Get up under His Grace. Jonah, you have been unsuccessful in hiding from His voice. God will not revoke His gifts and calling on your life! Let the GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE deliver you from your whale's belly. Get on the go! Preach the Word! Be instant in season and out of season! Preach Jesus with or without a pulpit! Preach Jesus with or without offering plates! Confess Jesus before men and Jesus will confess you before the angels who will, in time, escort you back to your proper place in the Body of Christ. O, man of God, the Father still needs you. It's never too late. You're not too far-gone. GO YE! Make a quality decision to LEARN from your failures, not to DROWN in them. Be a Samson who rises again! Be a Jeremiah who comes up out of the pit! Be a David who repents of his backsliding and lays hold of God afresh! Be a Peter who blazes a trail for Christ even after denying Him three times. Be an Elijah who allowed God to crash his pity-party of futility and fear, and let God raise you back up to do exploits in His name! Let Grace overshadow you. Let grace take up the slack and make up the difference! Even before your fall, anything you did for God was by His sheer grace anyways. What makes you think you were qualified previously by your moral perfection, or your popularity with people, or your ethical standards? You came to Christ by GRACE. Now come back home by GRACE. Grace WAS and IS your only qualification! Woe is you if you do not preach the Gospel! Let God worry about your reputation and His own reputation. Two wrongs don't make a right. So you blew it! I guess God is shocked, right? Didn't he see this coming before the foundation of the world and didn't He provide a way out in advance. Take your new lease on life! God hasn't sentenced you to the prison of trying to make ends meet through a career field that really isn't you. The Father has given you a Presidential Pardon from the Oval Office of the Universe! Come out of prison and with you feet running like Jonah did when God had the fish spit Him out near Ninevah. And if it was a group of people who deeply wounded you or a single person, how about taking them out of the prison of your heart by forgiving them in prayer to God, giving them another chance as well. O Man of God, o Woman of God, for such a time as this God is restoring you to His kingdom work!

Jonah 3:1 "And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time..."

Jeremiah 20:9-11 "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten."

Hebrews 12:1-13 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be

without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

Whoever you are... Lift up your eyes, lift up your head, lift up your heart, lift up your hands, lift up your voice, and RECEIVE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER AS THE GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE! He's on your side!

Twenty Six Times in Psalms 136 it says... **"O give thanks unto the LORD... for his mercy endureth for ever."**