Fabulous Facts of Forgiveness

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Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul … **Who forgiveth all thine iniquities**….

Psalm 103:1-5

Introduction:

1. Precious words in any language – *I forgive you; forget it. All is perfect. You will never hear of it again.*
2. The holy, just, vengeful God of the Bible forgiving sins is one of the greatest facts in the large universe.
3. The angels desire to look into these things, since there was no forgiveness for the devil and his angels.
4. If He does not forgive you, then your eternal destiny is with the devils, whom He also will not forgive.
5. You have made mistakes in life with other sinners who can do nothing, but you loved their forgiveness.
6. If Adam's sin condemned the whole race to three deaths and eternal torment, what will He do to you?
7. If you were not to sin, you would still be damned to eternal torment for Adam. You need forgiveness.
8. We have occasion to show a nature compatible with Jesus Christ, angels in heaven, and godly Corinth.
9. To the degree we forgive and celebrate repentance, we glorify God, adorn the gospel, and obtain favor.
10. For us to see more works of God's grace granting repentance to others, we want to forgive fabulously.
11. We prayed frequently and mightily for what is before us, and we should also celebrate proportionately.
12. Our God is holy and just and will by no means outside His will and Christ forgive (Ex 34:7; Nah 1:3).
13. If our glorious Jehovah were to mark iniquities and not forgive, we are all doomed (Psalm 130:3-4).
14. He expects and demands we confess our sins to Him for forgiveness (Pr 28:13); He also expects us to forgive those who confess offences to us or who do not confess offences to us (Pr 10:12; 17:9; 19:11).
15. There is no practical forgiveness without zeal and repentance (Josh 24:19,23; Matt 6:24; Luke 14:26).
16. Lessons we can and should learn about forgiveness are many, but let us summarize a few chief reasons:
17. Our desperate need for pardon by our Creator God and certain eternal ruin and torment without it.
18. God Jehovah's eternal plan and purpose to forgive His elect from their sins through His son Jesus.
19. Jesus paid the crucial and immeasurable legal price for forgiveness and pardon by His crucifixion.
20. There are strict conditional terms to learn and do for practical forgiveness for fellowship with God.
21. We also desperately need merciful forgiveness from others for restoration of relationships and rest.
22. We should celebrate and desire sinners known and unknown to repent and be forgiven like angels.

23. We should forgive others cheerfully, eagerly, fully, quickly, thoroughly, permanently like God us.
24. Forgiveness makes life beautiful, because without it, we are ruined now and damned later; there can be no happy relationships with God or men without it, either as a result of confession or without it.
25. Without eternal forgiveness, you will hear, *"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*
26. Without practical forgiveness, you may hear: *"I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said, I will not return with thee"* (I Samuel 15:22-9; 16:1).
27. Saul had the great intercessor Samuel who cared for him much, and David had Nathan, but see the difference between the two, which is gloriously or tragically great (II Sam 12:13; I Sam 16:13-14)!
28. With God choosing forgiveness, Jesus prayed for Peter, and he was saved (Luke 22:31-32); without God granting repentance and forgiveness, He left Judas a child of the devil to ruin (John 6:70; 13:27).
29. The case of Esau is terrifying, a decent but profane son, but shut out from forgiveness (Heb 12:16-17).
30. King Francis I of France (1494-1547), a contemporary of Martin Luther (1483-1546), responded to a man begging for pardon of speaking against the king, *"Do thou learn to speak little, so to sin no more, and I will not fail to pardon much; I can remit whatsoever you can commit, never doubt it."* I would only quote a Catholic king that slaughtered Waldensians to exalt God's forgiveness infinitely higher.
31. The following points are not new; most of them are well known; but God wants us to exalt forgiveness.
32. To avoid any confusion, Jesus does not practically love sinners as sinners, but only repentant sinners.
33. What is the religion of Jesus? A big part is sin and salvation for you to know and rejoice (I Tim 1:15).
34. Without the forgiveness of sins, you are damned and doomed, which makes its study a great pleasure.
35. Why is extensive study of the Bible topic of forgiveness important? What is the personal value to me?
36. So you will not allow Satan or anyone else, including yourself, to hold you back due to past sins.
37. So you will not hesitate for a second to ask God for forgiveness, even many times for the same sin.
38. So you will learn to fully believe God's forgiveness of others and for you to forgive them as well.
39. So you will rise from confession with great trust of acceptance with God and ambition to thrive.
40. So you will forgive others *because* God has forgiven you and *in order* for God to forgive you.
41. So you will delight in this incredible attribute of our great God and celebrate it by joyful worship.
42. So you will be primed and ready to help others believe God forgives and to claim it by repentance.
43. So you will consider your sins and sinfulness and Adam's sin for you to fully know God's love.
44. So you will see Jesus' lesson to Simon and love Him more than others by exalting His forgiveness.
45. So you will hate self-righteousness and know there are actually none that do not need repentance.
46. So you will instinctively know the confession and repentance required and do it faster than before.
47. So you will never presume on God's forgiveness without sincere and truly godly sorrow sustained.
48. So you will not waste a minute planning to get ready to go to Christ, or you will never go at all.
49. So you will never measure by foolish success standards, since He will forgive losers and sinners.
50. One of the greatest verses in the Bible, only twenty words long, says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 6:23).* The gift is by forgiveness.
51. Get something very clear in your mind – you all need incredible forgiveness to not be doomed here or

damned later – do not categorize sins, for one sin of eating fruit damned the race, and you have sinned countless times in comparable or worse ways. Do not rank sins and think yours need less forgiveness.

52. Forget murder, adultery, false oaths, revenge, and hatred; you are very guilty of these by Matthew 5.
53. Think of sins among many others often missed: backbiting, bitterness, conceit, covenant-breaking, defraud, emulation, envy, extortion, fantasies, foolish talking, grudges, heady, highminded, jesting, mind earthly things, railing, respect of persons, self-love, sobriety, talebearing, unthankful, etc.

Fact #1 – Definition of Forgiveness

Forgive = To end anger or resentment toward a person for an offence. To end any claim or thought of punishment for an offence. To overlook a wrong. To pardon an offender.

Pardon = The passing over of an offence without punishment; the overlooking of an offence and treatment of the offender as if it had not been committed; forgiveness.

Forgiveness / Pardon = God's mercy, a very huge subject we will only indirectly mention.

Forgiveness / Pardon = Bible has many expressions e.g. *The LORD hath put away thy sin* (II Sam 12:13) … *He passes by transgressions and does not retain anger* (Mic 7:18) … etc.

Fact #2 – It Is the Glory of God

1. When Moses asked to see God's glory, He instead heard about certain attributes of God.
2. God told Moses he could only see His backsides, sovereignty in mercy (Ex 33:18-23).
3. What was proclaimed? *Forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin* (Exodus 34:5-8).
4. God's glory is greatly displayed forgiving rebel sinners; the angels desire to see into it.

Fact #3 – Leveraging God's Glory

1. When God reveals Himself in declarations and/or promises, He allows you to use them.
2. After Moses' heard God's great forgiveness, He used it to save Israel (Num 14:17-19).
3. Daniel did not directly use Moses' vision, but he appealed to His forgiveness (Dan 9:9).

Fact #4 – Forgiveness Is Glory

1. When God showed Moses His glory, He revealed to Him His forgiveness (Ex 34:5-8).
2. God inspired Solomon to write we are glorious when we pass over offences (Pr 19:11).
3. How much more a holy God forgiving ten thousand talents than us forgiving 100 pence!

Fact #5 – The Example of Paul

1. God let Saul of Tarsus blaspheme His Son and kill Christians for Paul to be an example.
2. The Bible is clear how the chief of sinners exalts His forgiveness to us (I Tim 1:12-16).
3. Saul's terrible life greatly glorified God … *And they glorified God in me* (Gal 1:23-24).

Fact #6 – The Bigger the Better

1. We do not sin big to bring big glory to God, but big sinners do bring big glory to Him.
2. First, the bigger the sins and sinner, greater forgiveness is needed to pardon (Rom 5:20).
3. Second, the bigger the sins and sinner forgiven, God gets greater love (Luke 7:36-50).

Fact #7 – God Delights in Mercy

1. Forgiveness requires mercy – they are very related – God delights in mercy (Mic 7:18).
2. There is no God like our Jehovah in this matter – pardoning and passing over our sins.
3. If divine justice and wisdom send affliction, He dislikes it (Lam 3:32-33; Ezek 33:11).

Fact #8 – God Buries Sins at Sea

1. After delighting in mercy, Micah promised God would turn in compassion (Mic 7:19).
2. His compassionate forgiveness will include subduing the power of our sins as enemies.
3. Then our glorious God throws all our sins into the depths of the sea to never be found.

Fact #9 – White as Snow or Wool

1. Repentance brings His forgiveness and purging of even your very red sins (Isaiah 1:18).
2. If you have ever spilled wine on white carpet or a white shirt, you know difficult stains.
3. Rather than Calvary's cross, see God's forgiveness for repentance (Is 1:16-17,19-20).

Fact #10 – Women of Matthew 1

1. Matthew chapter one contains the legal genealogy of Jesus through his father Joseph.
2. This lineage of Jesus strangely mentions four women with sinful aspects (Matt 1:3,5,6).
3. Think! An incestuous conniver, a prostitute, a Moabitess, and an adulteress. Forgiven!

Fact #11 – East Is From West?

1. David described God's forgiveness by east and west's infinite distance (Psalm 103:12).
2. If He *removes* them this distance, not just north to south, how can we wallow in them?
3. Spurgeon opening, *O glorious verse, no word even upon the inspired page can excel it!*

Fact #12 – How High Is Heaven?

1. David described God's mercy in a context of sin as the height of heaven (Psalm 103:11).
2. Isaiah used heavens' height above earth to exalt God's thoughts and ways (Is 55:6-9).
3. What are His thoughts and ways? Read the context. It is God's pardon, or forgiveness!

Fact #13 – Hall of Faith Faults

1. Hebrews chapter eleven is commonly called the Hall of Faith for great heroes of faith.
2. Yet the faults, sins, or weaknesses of some listed there are well known by Bible readers.
3. What shall we say of Noah's drunkenness, Abraham and Sarah's folly with Hagar and laughing about conception, Moses' errors, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, David, etc.

Fact #14 – God Has No Pleasure

1. God Jehovah is the great, dreadful, holy, and terrible God of the Bible against sinners.
2. Yet, when dealing with His children, He has no pleasure punishing them for their sins.
3. He rather wants them to repent and be forgiven, so He orders it preached (Ezek 33:11).

Fact #15 – Judgment Is Strange Work

1. God judged Judah like He earlier judged Philistia, but it was His strange work (Is 28:21).
2. When God chastens children, His strange work, He restrains it to help (Is 27:7-8; 57:16).
3. Our Father recently helped us see treatment of grains for chastening (Isaiah 28:23-28).

Fact #16 – Angels in Heaven Rejoice

1. Jesus rebuked self-righteous Pharisees, but He exalted repented sinners (Luke 15:1-10).
2. Insider information is angels celebrating a repenting sinner, for no angels are forgiven.
3. Though the holy angels, a sinner repenting and forgiven by God is glorious (I Pet 1:12).

Fact #17 – Men on Earth Rejoice

1. It is obvious to godly persons we ought to copy or exceed the angels (Luke 15:11-32).
2. Jesus in further rebuke of Pharisees had a father celebrating his repentant prodigal son.
3. The feast spared little expense for overall merriment and individual honor to the son.

Fact #18 – Sons Are Not Servants

1. The repenting prodigal chose to be a servant, but the father denied it (Luke 15:11-32).
2. Forget servant's attire or lodging, he clothed him as a son with a ring on his hand. Glory!
3. Rather than let him wear rags or go barefoot, he put clothes and shoes on him as a son.

Fact #19 – God Reproves Older Brothers

1. The prodigal's older brother was like the Pharisees, and the lesson should not be missed.
2. He in self-righteous pride (very logical to a natural mind) resented celebrating a sinner.
3. But the father, yea, the Father, praised his conduct but exalted celebrating repentance.

Fact #20 – God Hates the Self-Righteous

1. Repentant sinners, each more or less, know some remember sins and despise sinners.
2. Jesus knew about such vile persons and destroyed them by comparison (Luke 18:9-14).
3. Let us never join these enemies Jesus ground to powder; let us exalt repentant sinners.
4. Never measure by pompous, pious, public worshippers; bow your head (Luke 18:9-14).

Fact #21 – God Made EBZ Beg

1. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, Job's three self-righteous friends, condemned him for sin.
2. At the end, they begged Job to pray for them for His anger against them (Job 42:7-10).
3. Self-righteous souls like them think bad events are due to sin, which is very often wrong.

Fact #22 – Jonah Types Are Frustrated

1. Do you know why Jonah refused to preach to Nineveh but took a ship toward Tarshish?
2. He knew God would forgive and destroy Nineveh; he did not like Nineveh (Jon 4:1-4).
3. So God set up a gourd event for Jonah to show his evil and perverse spirit (Jon 4:5-11).
4. God's forgiveness is so great, even to pagan enemies, it drove this prophet to wild folly.

Fact #23 – How Fast Does God Run?

1. Jesus lesson of the prodigal son included the father running to meet the repentant sinner.
2. Does God run to meet sinners when they repent? Godly persons know (II Sam 12:13).
3. Our Father's fastest run must be as David repented of aggravated adultery and murder.
4. The great lessons and promises of forgiveness allow no delay (Psalm 32:5; I John 1:9).

Fact #24 – God Forgave David Much

1. David was more blessed and privileged by God than other OT men (II Samuel 12:7-8).
2. Aggravated adultery is by a harem, his predecessor's wives, and any others he wanted.
3. Aggravated murder is a friend, dedicated soldier, one of the 37, and the collateral deaths.
4. Moses had written a certain death sentence for both; David had just declared it himself!
5. Yet, in spite of all these factors, God overruled His own law to instantly forgive David.
6. God did not turn away from David after this sin but rather made him greater and greater.
7. David was God's favorite in spite of Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah, Solomon, Rehoboam.
8. Let all presumptuous men know with certainty David repented profoundly (Ps 51:1-19).
9. Never sin assuming forgiveness; God is not mocked; repentance is *peradventure*

Fact #25 – Mercy Rejoices Against Judgment

1. This verse should not easily or totally leave your memory about forgiveness (Jas 2:13).
2. The verse is not without context: treatment of the poor is identified (James 2:1,4,6,8-9).
3. If you want God's mercy, you better show it, as taught here and elsewhere (Ps 18:25).
4. In Jesus' religion, mercy trumps judgment or sacrifice (Pr 21:3; Hosea 6:6; Matt 12:7).
5. In Jesus' religion, gentle kindness trumps harsh roughness (Matthew 7:2; Luke 6:38).

Fact #26 – Greater Can Be Later

1. Rather than sins discouraging, slowing, or stopping you, forgiveness lets you start over!
2. Your glory days can be ahead, because He can forgive and favor you more (Ps 51:13).
3. David's greatest deeds were later … and Manasseh, Paul, Peter, Mary Magdalene, etc.

Fact #27 – The Scapegoat Got Lost

1. The Day of Atonement included Israel's sins on a scapegoat (Lev 16:8,10,20-22,26).
2. This scapegoat was then taken by a fit man far into the wilderness to be lost forever.
3. You have heard the word scapegoat used to describe a victim blamed … like Jesus.

Fact #28 – God Is Not Fair

1. You should praise and thank Him; if He were fair, you would die now and go to hell.
2. He is not fair; he is merciful, gracious, and dislikes anger (Ps 103:8-10; 30:5; Mic 7:18).
3. He is slow to anger; He will not hold anger long; He loves mercy (Ps 78:38; Is 54:7-8).
4. God can turn away anger and fury, and you may pray for Him to do so (Daniel 9:16).

Fact #29 – Repentance Rends Hearts

1. God is not moved by external religion of talking or rending garments (Joel 2:12-13).
2. If you will repent properly, then God Himself will repent of evil punishment planned.
3. In addition, if you will repent, His mercy may bring forth a blessing (Joel 2:14,18-27).

Fact #30 – Example of Isaiah

1. When Isaiah the prophet saw the holiness of God, he was broken for speech (Is 6:5-7).
2. God immediately sent a live coal to symbolically take away his filthy sins of speech.
3. Not only was his sin taken away, but he was fitted for glorious use of lips (Is 6:8-9).

Fact #31 – Bold Approach by Forgiveness

1. We have a new and living way into His presence by no memory of sins (Heb 10:17-22).

2. Our sins are forgiven and our High Priest in place, so we can go boldly (Heb 4:14-16).
3. There is no reason to doubt or hesitate to degrade our praise or delay our forgiveness.
4. If we sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous (I John 2:1).

Fact #32 – Unimpeachable Without Sin

1. God did not spare Jesus but delivered Him up for us; we have no sins (Rom 8:32-33).
2. Martyrs were accused terribly by so-called Christians they could condemn (Is 54:17).
3. What about Satan? No problem, both prophetic and actual (Zech 3:1-4; Rev 12:10-11)!

Fact #33 – Sins Behind God's Back

1. In God's love for Hezekiah's soul, He threw all his sins behind His back (Isaiah 38:17).
2. Hezekiah knew he was a sinner on his deathbed, so God comforted him a creative way.
3. Sennacherib and a fatal disease had devastated his charmed life, but God still loved him.

Fact #34 – Example of Zacchaeus

1. This publican – a tax collector for Rome – was a covetous extortioner (Luke 19:1-10).
2. He repented publicly, promised restitution to his victims, and gave half of all to charity.
3. Jesus openly went to his house and declared him a saved child of Abraham to the crowd.
4. How long did the man's arduous, drawn-out repentance and forgiveness take? Minutes!
5. Jesus here in this setting gave one of His glorious axioms of forgiveness – *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Fact #35 – Sins Cannot Be Found

1. If you have made your calling and election sure, your sins cannot be found (Jer 50:20).
2. Though inquiry and exploration might be made for your sins, there are none to discover.
3. All men have sins, including Israel and Judah, but all were forgiven against judgment.

Fact #36 – Sins Not Remembered

1. The new covenant promises God will forget sins by forgiveness (Heb 8:12; 10:16-17).
2. God's selective memory about sins is exciting as above or terrifying (Rev 16:19; 18:5).
3. This had been a promise of the Old Testament, but mostly for us in the New (Is 43:25).
4. Based on God's promises and examples of reasoning, we may appeal to it (Psalm 79:8).

Fact #37 – Peradventure to Forgive You

1. If Paul's best pastor was perfect, God must choose to give repentance (II Tim 2:25-26).

2. Peradventure = perchance, if it chance that, it may be that, haply, maybe, perhaps, etc.
3. What a glorious maybe! Saved from self, contradiction, and Satan to repent for the truth.

Fact #38 – Example of Saved Thief

1. Repentance turned a thief from a cursing enemy to humble petitioner (Luke 23:39-43).
2. Repentance = public fear of God, admit guilt and just judgment, submit to Jesus as Lord.
3. How far forgiveness? *Verily, I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*.
4. This is one of the great examples in the Bible, but do not wait until death, repent today!

Fact #39 – Example of King Manasseh

1. God forgave Judah's worst king (David's line) and restored his reign (II Chr 33:12-13).
2. He put a pagan idol in the temple court, burned a son, and filled Jerusalem with blood.
3. God forgave him, restored him to his throne, and gave him the longest reign (55 years).
4. John Kent's song, *Beneath the Sacred Thone,* includes, *That sacred flood from Jesus' veins was free to take away a Mary's or Manasseh's stains, or sins more vile than they;* in another*, Ten thousand sins as black as hell, are swallowed up, O love, by Thee.*

Fact #40 – Lake, Book, and Lamb

1. The lake of fire was created for the devil and his angels and sinful men (Rev 20:11-15).
2. The books of works opened before the judgment seat of Christ will condemn all men.
3. Yet, the book of forgiveness, the book of life of the Lamb slain, will pardon all the elect.

Fact #41 – Example of Jonah

1. Sometimes your sins will get you into a real mess, like Jonah's did him (Jonah 2:1-10).
2. The point here is not God's forgiveness of Nineveh but rather of Jonah going AWOL.
3. In spite of a great sin, a very evil motive for it, and its results, God forgave and healed.

Fact #42 – By His Faithfulness Only

1. Practical forgiveness of sins is by God's faithfulness and justness, not ours (I John 1:9).
2. The crucial factors are not God's compassion, pity, regret, sympathy, or being moved.
3. By the sacrifice of His Son, He obligated Himself and to the fully paid choice He stands.
4. A presidential pardon is basically by whim; our forgiveness is by the death of His Son.

Fact #43 – None Are Truly Righteous

1. Jesus' comparison of righteous persons to sinners should not discourage (Matt 9:13).

2. Those He called righteous were only so in their minds – self-righteous (Romans 3:10).
3. Therefore, do not think there is a category of persons that do not need His forgiveness.

Fact #44 – The Worst Sin of All

1. The worst sin is to think yourself righteous and above sinners (Luke 15:2; 16:15; 18:9).
2. The worst sin is to presume you do not need repentance and to despise repenting sinners.
3. There is more hope of a fool than of those wise in their own conceit (Prov 26:12,16).
4. Never rank sins except to identify yours as the worst (Matt 23:23; I Tim 1:15; Eph 3:8).

Fact #45 – We Recall Final Forgiveness

1. The N.T. ordinance, the Lord's Supper, remembers Jesus Christ's death for all our sins.
2. The O.T. ordinance, the Day of Atonement, remembers our present sins all over again.
3. The difference is terribly great, which Paul used to exalt the N.T. (Heb 9:9-14; 10:1-4).

Fact #46 – His Goodness for Repentance

1. Rather than primarily pound you for repentance, He leads to it by goodness (Rom 2:4).
2. As the holy God of heaven with eternal power, He could exclusively threaten or punish.
3. But He is rich with goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering. What a glorious God!

Fact #47 – Repentance Trumps Righteousness

1. Previous righteousness does not cover present sin, but repentance will (Ezek 33:12-13).
2. This is an incredibly comforting verse for sinners, for losers, for backsliders. Repent!
3. Do not be discouraged by falling and sinning, the 'R' factor covers better than godliness.

Fact #48 – God Wins By 642,722 Times

1. Jesus compared His forgiveness of us as 10,000 talents and ours of others as 100 pence.
2. If we use silver, not gold; if we use Smith's for 1-14-22; it is $340 million against $529.
3. The chief idea is motive and warning to forgive others, but rejoice in God's forgiveness.

Fact #49 – You Need A Lawyer

1. God is Judge, and as Judge you need a lawyer to plead your case to Him (Job 9:32-33).
2. Rejoice! Jesus the Son of God is your lawyer forever (I Tim 2:15; I John 2:1; Heb 7:25).
3. Paul by inspiration exalted this factor of forgiveness over His death (Rom 5:10; 8:34).

Fact #50 – You Cannot Out-Sin God

1. God designed His religion and revelation to maximize guilt for our sins (Rom 5:20-21).
2. *Moreover* here adds to the depravity of nature and imputation of Adam (Rom 5:6-19).
3. When sin abounds (Rom 1:32; 3:9; 7:8,13), God's grace to forgive much more abounds.
4. Contrast of imputations is glorious – quality, quantity, reigning power (Rom 5:15-17).

Fact #51 – Never Doubt His Forgiveness

1. If you doubt His forgiveness, you either deny His integrity and/or Christ's sufficiency.
2. Neither of these two options is acceptable; they suggest devilish blasphemous questions.
3. He explained His abundant pardon is far above your ability to comprehend (Is 55:6-9).

Fact #52 – Forgiveness Is Easy / Simple

1. David described the ease of forgiveness in such a way that all would use it (Ps 32:3-6).
2. Read the anguish and pain while David stayed silent and did not the glorious 'R' factor.
3. But then God forgave him easily, simply for owning up to his sins and confessing them.
4. This is no different in the New Testament, where John described it similarly (I Jn 1:9).

Fact #53 – Not Strange To Us

1. Men let a friend with palsy (paralysis) down to Jesus to be healed (Luke 15:17-26).
2. Since Jesus had an audience of skeptics, He rewarded their faith by forgiving his sins.
3. This confounded their ignorance, so He confronted them for which miracle was harder.
4. He then showed the visible sign He had power from God by healing him great glory.

Fact #54 – Only God Hides Sin

1. God mocked Judah for the foolish notion of hiding their sins from God (Jeremiah 2:22).
2. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden with fig leaves, human effort is worthless.
3. Therefore, God's forgiveness is glorious, for it covers and hides those crimes we cannot.

Fact #55 – Our Passover Is Best

1. The Lord's Supper, usually called communion, is Christ's N.T. Passover (I Cor 5:7-8).
2. The O.T. version used lambs' blood to save firstborn sons from dying (Exodus 12:13).
3. The N.T. version uses wine for Christ's blood, which causes God to pass over our sins.
4. Our Lord's blood forgives our sins in four phases (Ep 1:7; I Jn 1:7; Rev 1:5; 13:8; etc.).

Fact #56 – God's Forgiveness Trumps Kings

1. The anger or forgiveness of a king is an incredible matter (Prov 16:14-15; 19:12; 20:2).
2. Since we have never seen real authority like an old fashioned king, we miss this glory.
3. A king's anger is nothing compared to God's and neither is his forgiveness of crimes.

Fact #57 – We Must Forgive Like Him

1. The parable of ten thousand talents and a hundred pence ends severely (Matt 18:21-35).
2. He has given us an incredible example, and we are to copy it (Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:13).
3. He will forgive you in proportion to you forgiving others (Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 6:37).

Fact #58 – Jesus Blasts Our Excuses

1. If I forgive like you suggest, people will have no check and they will hurt me even more.
2. Surely, Jesus did not mean 70×7 literally, because 3 times proves a person is not sorry.
3. If you do not show mercy against judgment toward others, you will get it (James 2:13).

Fact #59 – God Rejected EBZ Poison

1. Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar had a spirit of cruel self-righteousness God hates (Job 42:7-9).
2. They unmercifully thought the worst of Job without any evidence he had secret sins.
3. Elihu justified God and tried to justify Job from their attacks (Job 33:12-13,32; 36:1).

Fact #60 – Jesus Rejected Older Brother

1. Let it be known that Jesus preached Luke 15 against hateful, self-righteous Pharisees.
2. The story of the Prodigal is less about him than about the cold, calculating older brother.
3. Jesus ate with repentant sinners, and heaven's angels rejoice over them; so should we.

Fact #61 – He Hides From Sins

1. David's confessional prayer of repentance included God hiding His face (Psalm 51:9).
2. It is God's choice to do such a thing; He chose not to hide from Israel's sins (Jer 16:17).
3. The difference of God hiding His face from sins or not is huge (Gen 19:13; Ps 34:16).

Fact #62 – He Blots Out Sins

1. Blot out = To efface, wipe out of existence, sight, or memory; to annihilate, destroy.
2. It is a description of how God gets rid of sins (Ps 51:1,9; Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; Acts 3:19).
3. If God does not blot out sins, Israel and enemies pay (Jer 18:23; Neh 4:5; Ps 109:14).

Fact #63 – He Cleanses and Purges

1. Purge = cleanse = To make pure or clean; to rid of whatever is impure or extraneous.
2. The Bible describes this synonym for forgiveness (I John 1:9; Psalm 51:7; 65:3; 79:9).
3. Recall Isaiah's offer to turn crimson and red stains to white snow or wool (Isaiah 1:18).

Fact #64 – He Covers Our Sins

1. Covering is used for God forgiving us our sinners to be seen no more (Ps 32:1; 85:1-3).
2. Covering is used for us forgiving others and hiding their sins from view (Pr 10:12; 17:9).
3. This forgiveness toward others is exalted highly in scripture (James 5:20; I Peter 4:8).

Fact #65 – Holy Forgiveness Has Vengeance

1. Our God is holy, and it is His beautifying attribute, which must be exalted (Ps 99:1,5,9).
2. He forgave Moses, Aaron, Samuel their faults/sins and also Israel under them (Ps 99:8).
3. His holiness crushed inventions – Moses kept from Canaan or Israel dropped in desert.

Fact #66 – God Forgives You Frankly

1. Jesus confronted Simon the Pharisee with an example of frank forgiveness (Luke 7:42).
2. Frankly = Freely; unrestrictedly, without restraint or constraint. In liberal or abundant measure. In a liberal spirit, generously; unconditionally, unreservedly. Without concealment, disguise, or reserve; avowedly, openly, plainly.
3. While Jesus used this unique Bible word for an illustration, it certainly applies to God's!

Fact #67 – God Then Will Bless

1. We might call this piling it on; after forgiving sinners He often piles blessings on them.
2. When we turn at God's reproof, then He will pour out blessings (Prov 1:23; Acts 2:38).
3. Many passages describe these favors (Isaiah 58:11-14; Joel 2:18-24; II Chr 7:14; 12:12).
4. After repentance and forgiveness, we can be glad (Neh 8:10; Is 65:17-25; Hab 3:17-19).

Fact #68 – Compound Value of Forgiveness

1. God impressed these measures of forgiveness on the author while praying on this topic.
2. The next seven measures are not all that could be raised, but they should be combined.
3. First, the strictness of the offended party should be measured – God very holy and strict.
4. Second, the power of the offended party to inflict punishment – God has eternal power.
5. Third, the punishment threatened or promised by the party – God chose eternal torment.
6. Fourth, our influence on the offended party – we cannot influence this God whatsoever.

7. Fifth, the quality (or severity) of our offence is infinite – His declaration and examples.
8. Sixth, the quantity (or repetition) of offences against Him – we have sinned incessantly.
9. Seventh, what gift might we bring to appease the party – God already owns the universe.
10. If these seven ways of measuring forgiveness are compounded, *praise His forgiveness!*

Fact #69 – Example of Joshua the Priest

1. Joshua was high priest of Jews that returned from Babylon to Jerusalem (Zech 3:1-5).
2. What can a sinful man do with Satan resisting him before God? Wait for forgiveness!
3. The outcome for Joshua was same as that for Job, forgiveness and victory over Satan.
4. It is the LORD our Friend that intervenes for us in every way for His holy exoneration.
5. Electing grace is the cause of our forgiveness and deliverance from the enemy of saints.
6. The prophetic symbolism is wonderful, as God makes Joshua fully holy and acceptable.
7. The LORD Jehovah had great plans for His city of Jerusalem as it approached the N.T.

Fact #70 – Example of Corinth

1. Paul's horrible indictment of sinners missing heaven has a sweet ending (I Cor 6:9-11).
2. Corinth was a cesspool of lascivious sexual wickedness, maybe the worst in the world.
3. Paul clearly identified ten sinners that would never get into the eternal kingdom of God.
4. But then he declared that some of the Corinthians had been forgiven those specific sins.
5. If you are confused … washed, sanctified, justified by Jesus and the Spirit is forgiveness.

Fact #71 – Example of Rahab

1. We previously encountered this forgiven prostitute in our Lord's lineage (Fact #10).
2. She was a Canaanite that God purposed to destroy; she was a prostitute deserving death.
3. God's spies went to her city of Jericho and right to her house; He had opened her heart.
4. How much was she forgiven? David's great-great-grandmother! A mother of our Lord!
5. How much? With Joshua and Gideon in Hebrews 11! Compared to Abram in James 2!

Fact #72 – Example of Peter

1. Peter's impetuous conduct after becoming an apostle was bad enough. What of before?
2. When he met Jesus Christ, he fell down at Jesus' knees in humble contrition (Luke 5:8).
3. He failed two more major times that are recorded, but he was one Jesus' favorite three.
4. He was leader of the apostles with keys to the kingdom and two epistles with his name.

Conclusion:

1. You should review the Introduction at the top of this outline for all its reasons for this valuable study.
2. You can come to Jesus Christ, just as you are, right now, without improving anything, without a gift.
3. Since heaven's angels rejoice when a sinner repents, then you should rejoice for yourself and others.
4. Do not kick against the pricks of the Spirit's conviction, like Saul of Tarsus did (Acts 9:5). Repent!
5. Jesus does not love losers in general, but He rather loves certain and specific losers and individually.
6. Jesus stands at the door for fellowship with forgiven sinners; fret not about furniture or fare (Rev 3:20).
7. The Bible mentions this topic by two primary words – *forgive* and *pardon* – and many other words imply it (forgive – 48; forgiven – 38; forgave – 7; forgiveness – 7; forgiving – 4; forgiveth – 2; forgivenesses – 1; pardon – 15; pardoned – 3; pardoneth – 1). The drama of salvation is forgiveness.

For Further Study:

1. Facets of Salvation (2014).
2. Forgiveness of Sins (2008).
3. Abundant Pardon (2009).
4. The Prodigal Son (2005).
5. What Is Wrong with the Angels? (2017).
6. Jesus Came for Sinners (2002).
7. Jesus Loves Losers (2002) … Jesus Loves Losers (2 sermons).
8. Starting Over (2001) … Starting Over (2 sermons).
9. If We Confess Our Sins (2003) … If We Confess Our Sins (1 Sermon).
10. The 'R' Factor of Repentance (2015 Slides) … this video (Vimeo).
11. Forgiveness of a Great Sinner (2014).
12. Forgiven! (2015).
13. Jubilee! (2009).
14. Ten Thousand Talents (2005) … 10,000 Talents.
15. Forgotten Sins (2002) … Forgotten Sins (8 sermons).
16. Repentance (2008) … Repentance (2 Sermons).
17. While He May Be Found (2006).
18. Lovest Thou Me? (2009).
19. You Need a Lawyer (2010) … You Need a Lawyer (2 Sermons).
20. The Mercy of God (2003).
21. The Worst Sin of Self-Righteousness (2015 Slides) … The Worst Sin.
22. Self-Righteousness (2001).
23. Proverbs 26:12 Commentary.
24. Proverbs 26:16 Commentary.

25. Proverbs 20:6 Commentary.