

Encouragement in Life

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

We learn so much about Jesus Christ. Now what we learn of Jesus Christ gives us encouragement in life.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Look what we learn about Jesus Christ in this one verse.

1. He is a High Priest;
2. He is our High Priest
3. He sympathizes with our weaknesses
4. He has been tempted in every way we are tempted.
5. He has not failed in any one sin, He is without sin.

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In this one verse we have learned about us:

1. We have Jesus Christ as our high priest;
2. He sympathizes with us.
3. We have all been tempted to sin.

First, let's look at Christ who sympathizes with us in our weaknesses. We learn about the writer. This word is used only in Hebrews, here in 4:15 and 10:34. The point here is that it is used of Jesus Christ and of believers under the power of the God the Holy Spirit. This shows something that we should have toward one another. The Complete Biblical Library describes this: to sympathize with, to feel for, to have compassion on. It is better to think of this word as empathy. What this word is describing is Jesus Christ feeling what someone else feels. This word means to have compassion and not judging. (Without judgment). Sympathize means to make no judgment on a person.

Again, it is knowing the empathy of someone because you have also been what they are experiencing. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, empathizes with the weakness we have.

Second, Jesus Christ was tested just as we are tested. This is introduced by a double negative. We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize. But, on the contrary we have one who has been tested in all things according to our likeness.

Third Jesus Christ was sinless in His testing. This emphasizes the relationship between Jesus Christ and God the Father. Jesus Christ was tested but was totally free of sin before God. So that Sinlessness pleased God, and revealed Himself as faithful to God. Then in being free of all sin He was able to help us in our life.

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Now we have sins and Jesus Christ was able to completely help us in our sins and come near to God in our lives.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of Grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This is a powerful verse. This is the relationship of Grace and Mercy.

Note “Therefore” begins verse 14. Therefore, since we have a great High Priest... now, therefore our prayers are in Grace.

Note all that is involved here: The Throne of Grace and we receive Mercy and find Grace to help in time of need. Mercy occurs 174 times in the Bible.

Mercy

1. What does Mercy mean? This word means: benevolence, forgiveness. What is the definition of mercy in the Bible? Mercy appears in the Bible as it relates to forgiveness or withholding punishment. For example, God the Father showed mercy on us when he sacrificed his Son, Jesus Christ, on the Cross to pay the price for our sins: compassion, kindness, without punishment. Not very often do people talk about Mercy!
2. But it has one of the most important concepts about God. Before God this means forget punishment. I don't know if you thank God for His Mercy. Never forget, how we were due Punishment but before God, because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross, we do not endure Punishment all eternity. Because what Jesus Christ endured on the cross, that is because He endured our punishment, we received Mercy from God and received His Compassion.

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3. Then, instead of punishment, we received Forgiveness in His Mercy. When Mercy Speaks there is no more Punishment.
4. There are two things we should thank God for daily: Mercy and Kindness. How do you define Mercy? Mercy relates to forgiveness without punishment. God showed mercy on us when He sacrificed His Son, Jesus Christ on the cross, to pay for the price of our sins—this is Mercy.

Another way to look at Mercy is to think about what Mercy does: Jesus Christ demonstrated Mercy by loving us rather than condemnation. We deserve God's condemnation because of our sins. But instead, we received Mercy in the forgiveness of sins and received His Love.

5. Mercy in the Greek Testament. What does mercy mean in the Greek? Mercy in Greek was *eleos*, which is derived from the word for olive oil. Olive oil was used to treat wounds. It was soothing, comforting, and healing. It speaks then to a merciful God who is all those things. In Hebrew the word for mercy is *chesed*, which means steadfast love.

Another word for mercy in Hebrew is *raham*. From The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary Old Testament "the word pictures a deep kindly sympathy and sorrow felt for another who has been struck with affliction or misfortune, accompanied with a desire to relieve the suffering.

This study of suffering and mercy is so important to the Study of the Word of God, but God is always just when anyone is given suffering.

6. Showing Mercy How does God show Mercy? To show Mercy means to have compassion—to one who should be punished! It

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means to given undeserved forgiveness - here it is God giving undeserved forgiveness, especially when we do not even ask or beg for forgiveness.

Mankind is in a miserable state and who often does not even know they are in miserable state. Before God, it also adds Kindness to us when we do not deserve kindness. It means that we are forgiven when God was wronged by sin. Mercy means that God does not have to show Mercy to us. I know when I was 7 years old, I was crying when I believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior. I don't know why, but I knew I was forgiven.

7. How does God manifest His Mercy? By Forgiveness and Salvation. You can be a child and know and understand Mercy! Every parent should teach your children about Mercy from God, teaching your children about Mercy when they receive mercy. A child can learn about mercy when they hurt or disobey their parents and are given Mercy, by forgiveness, by receiving treatment/treated as good when they deserve discipline.
8. Exodus 3:7-17 is an excellent passage for learning about God being Merciful. The Lord talking with Moses:

Exodus 3:7 The Lord said I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.

Know not only of God's mercy in taking away the sufferings but note that He also replaces the suffering with blessing.

Exodus 3:8 So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and

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spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and Hittite and the Amorite and Perizzite and Hitvite and the Jebusite.

9. What are the characteristics of mercy? Let's note just a few from the Word of God. Compassion to a person who has sinned before God. Giving to all creatures according to their needs and to remove distress. Just read again Exodus chapter 3 and you will note the characteristics of Mercy.
10. There is a big difference between extending mercy and receiving mercy. First, no one has received mercy until it is offered. Offering mercy can be rejecting mercy as multitudes will not believe on Jesus Christ. They can be in suffering all through eternity by rejecting the gift of the offer of mercy.
11. There are two things very important in mercy. So what is the difference between Mercy and forgiveness? Because man is in sin there is anger, and resentment from God while Mercy involves/includes the withholding of harsh treatment that God has the right to inflict. God forgives and is merciful by His grace and man receives it by His Grace.
12. The Word 'great' ' is used to describe God's Mercy in two different passages. One in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. One was a man and the other a woman. One was a king and the other was related to one of the greatest persons in the Old Testament.

There is Great Mercy in

**2 Chronicles 1:8 And Solomon said unto God,
"Thou hast shewed GREAT MERCY unto**

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David my father, and have made me king his place."

Luke 1:58 Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.

13. There is a relationship between mercy and forgiveness. Mercy and forgiveness are two terms that can be used interchangeably in some contexts. However, these two terms have distinctive individual meanings. Mercy refers to the kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly. Forgiveness refers to letting go of his anger and resentment against a person.
14. How are grace and mercy connected to forgiveness? Closely associated with a belief in the mercy of God is the idea of grace, since one of its most significant meanings is 'the undeserved mercy of God given to sinners'. Because of their frail and sinful human natures, people cannot by their actions deserve to be forgiven or earn forgiveness in any way with God. Grace and Mercy and Forgiveness are very important to our Salvation. Closely associated with a belief in the mercy of God is the idea of grace, since one of its most significant meanings is 'the undeserved mercy of God given to sinners'.

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15. Is God forgiving and merciful? "The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him." "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake and remember your

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sins no more. Then He adds “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

16. How many times does the Bible say his mercy endures forever?

The phrase "His love endures forever" is repeated 26 times. You might think then this phrase is all about love."

17. Why do we ask God to have mercy on us? The mercy of God gives us what we do not deserve but we must also know that it is the prerogative of God to show mercy to whoever He wants. This much is stated in Romans chapter 9 verse 15. The mercy of God makes Him to intervene in our situation. When God's mercy shows up, it puts an end to being lost.

18. What Bible verse says you have mercy on your souls?

Psalm 57:1 (NIV) Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

Psalm 57:2 (NIV) I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills [his purpose] for me.

19. Where in the Bible does it say his mercy endures forever?

Psalm 136:1-3 O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever...

20. Where in the Bible does it say God's mercies are new every day? His Mercies Are New Every Morning Lamentations 3:22-24.

21. What is the connection between grace and mercy? In the dictionary, grace is defined as courteous goodwill. Meaning, it's not asked for nor deserved, but is freely given. Mercy, on the other hand, is the compassion

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and kindness shown to someone whom it is in one's power to punish or to harm. It is an act meant to relieve someone of their suffering.

22. Jesus Christ speaks of mercy in Hosea 6 and in Matthew.

Hosea 6:6 (NIV) I desire mercy not sacrifice?

Jesus then admonished the Pharisees.

Matthew 9:13 (NIV) "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'".

He was quoting the prophet Hosea, who, centuries earlier, had condemned the Jews for attempting to excuse their idolatry and their oppression of the poor by offering the prescribed animal sacrifices.

23. In the Beatitudes is one of the most powerful/beautiful verses about God in all the Bible.

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The word "mercy" throughout the Bible has been associated with forgiveness and forbearance; it is abundant compassion, true love and kindness. In fact, it is part of the very nature God. As in

James 5:11 ... that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Read Psalm 86 The reading in the King James is preferred in this Psalm for it translates things like mercy as given in the Psalm. As you read through pay attention to the cry out to God over and over. It begins with the Lord and ends with the Lord.

As we just read through note how much is spoken of the greatness of the Lord for mercy.

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Psalm 86:1. Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poor and needy. (spiritually)

Psalm 86:2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save/deliver thy servant that trusteth in thee.

Psalm 86:3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

Psalm 86:4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Psalm 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Psalm 86:6 Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.

Psalm 86:7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

Psalm 86:8 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

Psalm 86:9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Psalm 86:10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

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Psalm 86:11 Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Psalm 86:12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

Psalm 86:13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Psalm 86:14 O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.

Psalm 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalm 86:16 O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

Psalm 86:17 Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, Lord, hast holpen me, and comforted me.