

Lesson: The Need for Forgiveness (2 Chronicles 7:1-15)

- A. The basis of forgiveness is a frayed relationship
 - 1. God started a relationship which we messed up.
 - 2. God gives us indications of a disruption in a relationship.
- B. Our forgiveness with God is conditional upon our request
 - 1. God told Solomon, "If" my people.
 - 2. God does not have to forgive us. He does so because he chooses to.
- C. Humility is nonnegotiable with God
 - 1. We must humble ourselves before the Lord when asking for forgiveness. Pride got us into the mess; humility gets us out. Thinking we know the way to right without God leads us to wrong.
- D. We must seek the face of God and turn from our wicked ways
 - 1. Seeking God's face comes with the understanding that we need God more than we need to see our own faces. That is, we need the Word and wisdom of God more than we need our own words and wisdom.
 - 2. We must also be willing to let bad ways go. We will not know what bad ways are unless we are aware of good ways. But once we are aware of the difference between good and evil, we must be willing to renounce the evil for the good.
- E. This posture of recognition is what opens the heavens to forgiveness and healing.
 - 1. God listens to people who realize they need him. If we say we need him and act like we do not, then God will acknowledge our actions and not our words. But our true beliefs are what God recognizes.
 - 2. Through the openness of God and heaven to us, we receive forgiveness. That is, God releases us from the debt we have incurred with him, he erases the error and makes us from the crime. We regain our status with him through the forgiveness of our sins.
 - 3. If we have been restored with God, then we stand in the place of healing. God does not owe healing, but the benefit of healing in our land, our finances, our families, our minds, our souls, even our bodies, come through this process.