

# Is anything too hard for the Lord? – Forgiveness?

## **Genesis 18:14**

14. (With regard to Sarah having a child) “Is any thing too hard for the Lord?”

## **Jeremiah 32:27**

27. Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

God’s laws were created to benefit mankind. When faithfully followed they are sure to provide us with contentment and happiness. Unfortunately, we may do things occasionally that violate what God has asked us to do. In the Bible this violation is referred to as “Sin”. Sin is defined as a transgression of God’s law, 1 John 3:4. The Bible makes it clear that everyone intellectually responsible to God has sinned, Romans 3:23. In short, we have all done some things against God. So, in effect, when we sin we hurt ourselves. Sins un-repented of and not forgiven will cause eternal death, Romans 6:23. Sometimes these sins “pile up” and we feel as though we are so vile that God will not forgive us. Is this true? Will God forgive us even if we have been really sinful?

Whatever the reason for our sinful past, the question is: Is the Lord able, and willing to provide forgiveness and assurance? The same Lord God who made the heaven and the earth?

## LYING

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Jacob

- Rebekah assists Jacob in deceiving his father Isaac in order to receive the blessing due the 1<sup>st</sup> born. In so doing he lies.

**Genesis 27:18-19, 24** And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son? 19. And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. 24. And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.

- Jacob later is restored to his brothers love, Genesis 33, and received God’s approval after following his instructions, Genesis 35:1-13. Jesus acknowledges Jacob’s repentance and acceptance in the following verse:

**Matthew 8:11** And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

- **Application for us:** Repent of our lying and make amends when possible. Follow God’s instructions faithfully to obtain forgiveness and acceptance.

**Isaiah 63:8** For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour.

**Colossians 3:9-10** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10. And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

## STEALING

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Soldiers that crucified Jesus

- The soldiers stole Jesus garments when he was crucified. They should have rightfully been given to his mother who was standing by.

**John 19:23-24** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

**Luke 23:34** Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

- Jesus asks God to forgive them even though they were doing such bad things to him. God answered Jesus' prayer on Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 verses 22-47.

- **Application for us:** If we have been guilty of stealing in the past, we must stop stealing and restore what may be rightfully restored. Jesus will forgive us if we repent and "steal no more".

**Ephesians 4:28** Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

### ADULTRY:

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** An un-named Woman

**John 8:3-5** And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4. They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

**John 8:10-11** When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11. She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

- **Application for us:** Adultery & Fornication are very grievous sins, topping most Biblical lists of sins. However, if a person will stop sinning and live according to God's word, Jesus is eager to forgive.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

### DRUNKENNESS:

- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** Noah – After the Flood

**Genesis 9:20-21** And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21. And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- **Application for us:** Though we may have been guilty of the sin of drunkenness, which will keep one out of heaven Galatians 5:21, God will forgive us if we stop sinning and start doing right.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Comforting thoughts....

- When we repent and turn from sin, it brings joy to God's heaven.

**Luke 15:7** I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

- The Lord doesn't want anyone to be lost. He is waiting for men and women to repent.

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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