DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 11

CAN GOD FORGIVE MY PAST?

The Amazing Grace That Offers a New Beginning

GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS GREATER THAN YOUR PAST.

HE CLEANS, HE RESTORES, AND HE GIVES YOU A NEW START.

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."

- God's Mercy Is Bigger Than Your Mistakes
- Jesus Paid the Price for Your Forgiveness
- He Removes the Guilt and Gives You Peace
- He Offers You a Fresh Start Today

THE NORTH JERSEY UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Pastor Gary Evensen
pastor@njupc.org

51 Centre Ave
Secaucus, NJ 07094

pastor@njupc.org

www.njupc.org

WELCOME TO THE

DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

Pastor Gary Evensen Author

Pastor @ njupc.org

https://www.njupc.org

https://www.youtube.com/@NJUPCINC

51 Centre Ave, Secaucus NJ 07094

CAN GOD FORGIVE MY PAST?

Introduction

Many people carry invisible burdens.
Regret.
Shame.
Guilt.
Painful memories.
Mistakes they wish they could undo.
Some wonder:
"Could God ever forgive what I've done?"
"Have I gone too far?"
"Have I made too many mistakes?"
"Can God really forgive someone like me?"
The Bible answers these questions with a resounding yes.
No matter what your past contains, God's grace is greater.

1. EVERYONE HAS A PAST

Sometimes people look at others and assume they have never struggled.
The truth is that every person has sinned.
Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
The Bible does not divide people into good people and bad people.
It teaches that all have sinned.
Every person needs forgiveness.
Every person needs grace.
Every person needs God.

2. SIN LEAVES REAL CONSEQUENCES
Many people try to ignore their past.
Others try to bury it.
Some attempt to outrun it.
Yet guilt has a way of following us.
Sin damages relationships.
Sin creates pain.
Sin often leaves scars.
Isaiah 59:2

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God..."
The greatest consequence of sin is separation from God.
That is why forgiveness is so important.

3. GOD ALREADY KNOWS EVERYTHING
One reason people hesitate to come to God is because they fear what He will discover.
But God already knows.
He knows every thought.
Every word.
Every failure.
Every secret.
Psalm 139:1-2

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me..."
Nothing about your life surprises God.
Yet He still loves you.

4. JESUS CAME FOR BROKEN PEOPLE
Many people assume Jesus came for religious people.

The Bible teaches something different.

Luke 19:10

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Jesus spent time with:

• Tax collectors
• Sinners
• Outcasts
• Failures
• Broken people

The people most aware of their need were often the ones most drawn to Him.

5. NO SIN IS GREATER THAN GOD'S GRACE

The Apostle Paul once persecuted Christians.
David committed adultery and murder.
Peter denied Jesus.
Yet God forgave them.

Romans 5:20

"Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

God's grace is greater than your failures.
Greater than your mistakes.
Greater than your regrets.
Greater than your past.

6. THE CROSS WAS FOR YOU

Jesus did not die merely for humanity in general.
He died for individuals.

Isaiah 53:5

"But he was wounded for our transgressions..."

Every nail.
Every wound.
Every drop of blood.
Was part of God's plan to provide forgiveness.
The cross proves that God wants to forgive.

7. FORGIVENESS IS MORE THAN A SECOND CHANCE

Many people think forgiveness means God pretends nothing happened.
Biblical forgiveness is deeper than that.
God removes guilt.
God restores relationship.
God gives a new beginning.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..."

You do not have to remain trapped by your past.
God specializes in new beginnings.

8. WHAT ABOUT THE THINGS I CAN'T FIX?

Some mistakes cannot be undone.
Words cannot be taken back.
Years cannot be relived.
People sometimes carry regret over things they cannot change.
The good news is that God's forgiveness is not dependent upon your ability to fix everything.

Psalm 103:12

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

God can forgive what you cannot undo.

9. CAN GOD REALLY FORGIVE ME?

Perhaps that is the question you have been asking all along.
Not whether God forgives people.
But whether He can forgive you.
Listen to the invitation of Scripture.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins..."
God's promise includes you.
No asterisk.
No hidden condition.
No impossible standard.
If you come to Him in repentance and faith, He will forgive.

10. YOUR STORY IS NOT OVER

Many people allow their past to define them.
God offers something better.
He offers a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord..."
Your worst mistake does not have to be the final chapter of your life.
God still has a purpose for you.
God still has a plan for you.
God still offers hope.

Conclusion

Can God forgive your past?
The cross answers that question.
Jesus came because humanity needed forgiveness.
Jesus died because humanity needed forgiveness.
Jesus rose again so forgiveness could be offered to all.

John 8:36

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Your past may explain where you have been.
It does not have to determine where you are going.
God's grace is greater than your past.