

## Discipleship Series for New Believers

### Lesson 5: God's Compassion

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#### **God's Compassion-Why**

A new believer would benefit from knowing the compassion of Christ because then they will feel more comfortable approaching Him when struggles arise. Some people believe that God will reject them when they are struggling, and so they never come to God for help. Instead, they will run away from Him. They might believe He is angry with them so they will fight against the temptation on their own without the power of God that comes from asking the Lord to help them so the temptation can be overcome. This type of living will cause the believer to fail time and time again.

However, if a new believer is taught that God has compassion on our weaknesses, that He was touched with our infirmities, and He wants us to come to Him asking for help (Hebrews 4:14-16); then they will discover the power they need to live an overcoming life. Knowing Jesus' compassion will help the believer have faith to come to God despite the lies the devil might throw at them telling them that God rejects them and is too angry or disappointed with them to desire to help them.

#### **God's Compassion-How**

Many times as Christians we come to the conclusion we need to be strong for God's approval. Sometimes we believe that God is not pleased with us when we are weak or during times in our relationship with God when we struggle with temptation. However, the Bible shows us a completely different picture of how God is during our weak times or times of struggle. God's Word clearly shows that He is compassionate and He has mercy on us when we are weak or tempted to sin. He only desires that we come to Him and not run away from Him and try to make it through the struggle on our own. If we come to Him, He will give us the strength we need to make it through the temptation victorious. Hebrews 4:14-16 illustrates this point saying, "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." When we struggle, if we come to God, He will always give us the grace we need to make it through.

God always hears us when we are struggling and pray to Him. Not only does He hear us, but He comes to our aid when we need His help. For instance, if a person is struggling with looking at something they should not be looking at, like lustful photographs, then they can cry out to God for help. God will give them the power to stop looking at what is harmful and to do what pleases Him. He will hear that prayer and give the grace and strength to change. Whoever cries out to God in this situation will come out victorious because they will learn to rely on His

strength when they are tempted and not their own. He does not condemn us, but desires to help us forsake what is wrong. Psalm 102:16-17 shows that God hears us when we feel forsaken. “For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer.” This is God’s true heart towards His children.

When we are in a weak place, God is not mad at us. When we go through various difficulties in our lives that overwhelm us or are too hard, like the death of a loved one, someone hurting us very deeply, or a serious illness, God is personally there for us. When we are hurting and cannot go on anymore without His grace, God is not disappointed. God is not afraid of people who are in pain. He can handle it. He desires for us to cast our pains upon Him and to carry us through these difficult circumstances. Psalm 22:24 supports this point stating, “For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him He heard.” God is moved with compassion when we are suffering or hurting.

God does not expect us to be able to overcome circumstances and trials by ourselves. He expects us to have to rely upon Him. He is our Heavenly Father, and just as earthly fathers take care of all the needs of their children, He takes care of us. When a father hears his baby crying, he does not just forsake his child and let it cry. No! He immediately comes into the room to see what is wrong to try and fix it. The father does not expect the baby to take care of itself. He expects to be the one to care for it. Psalm 103:11-14 shows that God has compassion on us just as earthly fathers care for their children. “For as the heaven’s are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” He expects nothing more from us than to be weak and rely on Him. And when He sees we are weak and need His help, He willingly gives it.