



## *The Lord's Mountain Mover's* **NEWSLETTER**

*"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."*  
(Matt. 17:20)

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### **Paradoxical Forgiveness**

Man's definition and practice of Christianity has declined over the centuries. This is not a blanket statement that includes all Christians, nor does it include all churches. It is however, infecting and affecting how the gospel message is preached from the pulpits and presented by the lives of those who profess the name of Jesus Christ. When the gospel message is not presented and lived out in its truth and purity, then it cannot and will not be received as Jesus taught and lived it during His time here on earth.

One of the most intrinsic aspects of the gospel message is forgiveness. Without it, the gospel message is useless, it ceases to be the gospel. The "Good News" merely becomes the news. There is a term known as irreducible complexity. To explain, if you had an old-fashioned mouse trap and removed any part of it, it fails to be a mouse trap. That's irreducible complexity, something at its barest form. So, if we remove, or even alter the definition and practice of Biblical forgiveness, then the gospel message is lost and ineffective in its intended purpose.

The major struggle with forgiveness today is the gap between Biblical forgiveness and practiced forgiveness. This is what I call, paradoxical forgiveness. Man's attempt to draw the world toward God has resulted in him stepping away from Biblical truth and allowing the message of forgiveness to become diluted with the world's ideals and morals. It is compromise at the core. It is Biblical adultery. Jesus, and the apostles, warned us many times about a little leaven ruining the whole lump. Any deviation from the purity of the gospel message in its entirety will eventually corrupt the wholeness and holiness of that message.

I feel like the leaven that has infected the understanding of forgiveness is the concept and acceptance of sin, sinfulness, and the sinner. Our society has made tremendous progress in minimizing sin. Satan is busy about his business and we are not. Our complacency in not standing up and speaking out against this is just as grievous as those who are perpetrating it. If we allow sin's Biblical definition to be diminished, then the definition of forgiveness will naturally follow.

Shallow repentance has also led to shallow forgiveness. We cannot disregard the fact that shallow repentance has also been a part of the problem. True godly sorrow must be a part of the equation. King David got it right in Psalm 51, "*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin, for I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight...*" (Psalm 51:2-4)

The Apostle Paul applauded the Corinthian church for their act of godly sorrow by pointing out their act of repentance. "*For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces repentance, without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong...*" (2 Corinthians 7:10-11) I guess you could call this the recipe for repentance. Leave no ingredient out and you will find the icing on this cake to be Biblical forgiveness.

Please feel free to contact us on our website, [www.TheLordsMountainMovers.org](http://www.TheLordsMountainMovers.org). You can sign up to get the monthly newsletter free of charge. You can also place your prayer request on our website and join us in praying for our other brothers and sisters in the Lord. You can also contact us at The Lord's Mountain Movers, PO Box 1211, Boulevard, CA 91905-0311. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Who has sinned? In Romans 3:22-23, the Apostle Paul reminds us that, "...*there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" All of us have sinned! Paul also leveled the playing field between Jews and Greeks by reminding them, and us, that, we are all under sin. (See Romans 3:9)

When did we sin? We were born sinners! You see it is not the act of sinning that makes us a sinner, we sin because we are sinful, it is in our fleshly nature. Sin is the natural bi-product of being a sinner. As direct descendants of Adam we all enter this world sinners without having committed any sinful act. Romans 5:12 reads, "*Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.*" We were born sinners and have need of a new birth so we can be forgiven and empowered to have dominion over our sinful nature. One day we will be glorified, but until that time we are being sanctified. Let's not claim ourselves glorified outside the present process of our sanctification. What we will one day be is not what we presently are.

Why do we sin? James tells us that, "*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it gives brings forth death.*" (James 1:14-15) Everybody possess a sinful nature by birth. No one person is above the other, we all stand guilty before God. Take some time to read Isaiah 64, especially verse 6, "*For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.*"

In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) Jesus presents us with two contradictory individuals. The pharisee who is self-righteous who sees only his deeds and not himself and the tax collector who sees only himself and not his deeds. In this parable the tax collector, who is at the temple, is found like this, "*unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breasts, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'*" Do you see that he was not asking for mercy because of the sins he had committed but for being the sinner? He was going to the core issue, his sinful nature. He knew that he needed to go beyond the fact that he had committed sin, he needed help with who he was as a person. That's what he sought God's mercy for, being a sinner.

The point I am trying to make here is that those who seek to place themselves above others because they have not done certain sins are walking on thin ice. In Jesus' parable only the tax collector went home justified. Jesus said, "*I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other, for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.*" (Luke 18:14)

We are all capable of committing the worst of sins and it is only by the grace of God that some have not. But please know this, outside of God's forgiveness even for the most minor of sins (as if those even exist before God) we all stand guilty before God and would receive the same punishment, eternal damnation.

We all talk about those "four-lettered" words that offend us. Those words that cause most of us to cringe when we hear them. I say that there is a "three-lettered" word that causes more offense and grieves God and others when we hear it uttered. That word is, "but." There is an old saying that goes, "the small print takes away what the big print promises." That small print word here is, "but." Here is a saying that I am sure you have heard or maybe even uttered yourself. I love you "but" I don't like you. Wow, how can someone, anyone, say that they profess the greater but reject the lesser? Did God ever say that? Did He say that He loved the world, "but" He didn't like it? Yes, I know that He didn't like the condition of the world, but He did something to correct the problem and draw it closer to Him and not push it away. He sent His only Son to die. That's sacrificial forgiveness, something that is lacking in the lives of a lot of Christians today and in the preaching of the gospel message.

When Jesus hung on the cross, did He say, Father forgive them for they know not what they do “but”... No! He asked for them to be forgiven while He was hanging there on the cross and being their very sacrifice should they realize and accept it. Real Biblical forgiveness exists for those who realize their desperate state and usher up Biblical repentance. Unfortunately, Biblical repentance and forgiveness is hard to find in Christendom today.

My last Scripture example of Biblical forgiveness comes from a parable of the lost son in the Gospel of Luke 15:11-32, please read. In this very applicable parable, we find the lost son deep in his sin and scripture says, “*But when he came to his senses, he said ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here of hunger. I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;’*” (verse 17-18) What a necessary and profound revelation! Does the direction of his confession sound familiar? King David maybe. Came to his senses! He had an awakening so to speak. Maybe there are some of us that need to come to our senses. His act of repentance was his realization of his condition and his resolve to correct it.

Next, I want to look at the “but” attitude of the lost son. “*I am not longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.*” (verse 19) In his heart and mind he was willing to accept the partial reconciliation with his father. He was willing to come back to his father and accept a treatment less than a son would have. If you read verses 21 and 22 you find that his father cut him off before his son could even utter the “but” statement. Forgiveness sought and the “but” cut off!

The last part of this parable I want us to note is the reaction of the lost son’s father upon his son’s return. First, no rebuke for his past actions, just forgiveness. Second, he brought out the best robe signifying honor. Third, put a ring on his hand, a symbol of authority. Fourth, sandals on his feet, restoration as his son. Lastly, he killed the fatted calf and had a celebration. Now that’s Biblical forgiveness. A forgiveness without “buts.” When was the last time we offered someone forgiveness like that? When was the last time we truly celebrated someone’s repentance for what they had done to God, to us, or to someone else?

Maybe we lack the concept and the ability to offer Biblical forgiveness to others because we have never experienced it firsthand. We haven’t been where King David, the church in Corinth, the tax collector, or the lost son have been. Maybe it is because it hasn’t been preached from the pulpit as often and with the power it needs to be because it doesn’t fill the pews and the offering plates. Maybe it is because we haven’t practiced offering to others what God has so freely offered to us.

Biblical forgiveness is an all-or-nothing prospect. It is not metered out in portions or degrees. Biblical forgiveness as demonstrated by Jesus in life and death, His death for our life. God set the bar of forgiveness at its highest possible point because man, every man and woman, regardless of their personal sin list was born at the lowest possible point, an enemy of God and a condemned sinner. Instead of playing limbo with our forgiveness let’s try pole vaulting towards the bar that God set for us through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ.

True, God-practiced, forgiveness opens us up to being hurt again. God does that every second of every day with every one of us. It is turning the other cheek not turning our backs. To continually hold a repentant person’s sins over their head through conditions is tantamount to dangling forgiveness like a carrot on a stick.

Lord I pray that I may be challenged today and every day to evaluate my forgiveness towards others. Help me not to meter out forgiveness like some commodity only I possess, but to openly, freely, and without reservation give it to others like You have given it to me. Guide me in my daily life in being an example to others on how Biblical forgiveness is to be exercised. Never let me say, “I love you, but...” or, “I forgive you, but...” Help me to reject

the idea of worldly sorrow, repentance, and forgiveness and take on the truth of godly sorrow, repentance, and forgiveness as You lived and taught it.

As King David said, wash me of my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Amen!

God guide and bless us all.

*Pastor Pete*

## **BE A BARNABAS** (Acts 4:36)

Living with Conviction

*“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

We all live in a life of contrasts and try to simplify them, so we can understand life better. God, sending His Son into the world for us, has given us clearer insight and understanding of this world and our lives. Before we knew Him, we couldn’t make sense of many things going on around us. Finding a focus may have been difficult. Being different all of us have found things to focus on, some focused-on work, others family, some partying, others still were focused-on running amuck, etc. But once God opened our eyes, we changed and are beginning to see things differently.

God gave us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, to help us see things differently. All of us still, have so much that we don’t understand. When praying, I have asked God to give me a strong conviction, so I would know whether or not it was what He wanted me to do. I really asked for a black and white answer from a God who is infinite in color. To be honest, rarely have I ever had a prayer answered where it lined up exactly as I had laid it out for God to answer. I am sure you have heard how God answers all prayers; some no, some yes and others the answer is, not yet. Still, I think that is limiting our colorful Creator and what He is infinitely able to do.

When we ask God to tell us which way to go, we can receive a prompting from the Holy Spirit in different ways. Being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit is not easy these days with so many things pulling us in different directions. It can be easier to hear a good sermon and think of someone else that it applies to, rather than applying it to our own lives.

Following our own conviction from God, not someone else’s is also hard to do when we look up to leadership, expecting them to make the hard decisions for us. Learning to live by our own faith is a daily challenge, but I want to encourage all of us this month to be more sensitive to God’s voice. To spend more time just meditating on His word, not running through the Bible. Take a slow stroll through scripture and let the peace and comfort of God really sink into our hearts and souls.

May we give God a chance to work in our families' lives, our friends or co-workers. Remembering that without the Holy Spirit convicting us, it may not last or convert them as deeply as it did with us. In love, be patient, waiting for God to do His perfect work in each one of us, in His special way. Living our lives of conviction for the glory of God one moment at a time.

May God continue to bless and keep you strong in the faith, amen.

*Brother Daniel Rodney*

### **How would you like to bless and encourage someone?**

We would love to receive your testimony of how God has impacted your life in the past or present. God does things in our lives not only to bless us, but to be an inspiration to others who may be facing some of the same circumstances you have. Please keep your testimony to one page or less. We look forward to seeing and sharing God working in your life. If you send something you need to have back, we will be glad to return it to you, just let us know.



### *Our Prayer Requests for God's Children*

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. We are currently posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over the world can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered.

What a privilege we have, to go before the throne of God with our requests and the requests of others. Let us keep praying and seeking His will for our lives and the lives of others. If you have a prayer request you would like added to next month's newsletter and/or posted on the ministry website, please fill out the form below and mail it to us. Previous prayer requests are still there on the website for people to read. We are wondering if your prayer has been answered yet? Send us your praise reports! We want to know and share it with everyone else who reads the newsletter, so keep us updated. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior.

**Please note:** We ask that you try to keep your prayer requests short when using the prayer request form. We have limited print space so pages of hand-written requests (or bible tracks, lengthy stories and Bible scripture) won't be able to be published.

## February - March 2019 Prayer List

- Judi R .....Prayer that her positive occult blood test was not due to cancer.
- Michael S.....Seeking restoration with wife and family. For personal strength in battle over sin's entanglement. Protection and guidance for his children. Help with legal battles.
- Joe A.....Seeking forgiveness from the victim's family, that God would reveal the truth in this terrible loss of a loved one.
- Robert C.....Robert is a dear friend of this ministry. He was 95, a WWII veteran, Purple Heart Recipient and amputee. He has suffered a bought with Phenomena and we ask for prayer in his full recovery. **Update: Our dear friend Robert went on to be with the Lord on the morning of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** We ask for prayer for the family. He will be dearly missed.
- John D.....Prayer for healing of his kidney. Also, prayer that he will become comfortable in his new living arrangements. Give him peace in his heart that he is loved and needed.
- Raymond W ...Askes for prayer for his family and himself for God to keep him humble and that may God Bless Billy, Tara, Liam, Nora, Penny, Mary, Drew, Eric, Wendy, Chet, Renee, Keith, TJ, Lincoln, Braxton, Tom, Deb & Abby.
- Kenny L .....Asks for prayer to strengthen my walk and ask the Lord to provide a spiritual accountability partner. Ask for prayer, mercy and peace to all lifers (Indeterminant sentenced). Christmas Eve, 2018, the Supreme Ct. rejected Gov. Browns request to commute my sentence. Through this tribulation I was able to find comfort, peace & rest in Christ. I pray to encourage all lifers to trust & believe in Christ to strengthen their Faith in Him.
- Joe A .....Pray for my victim and his family, Praying for a pen pal and favor from the Governor for a pardon.
- Juan S .....Prayer for myself, my Wife Luz R. cleaning, protection, healing, reconciliation and ask to destroy all assignments of darkness against us. I pray that my wife to be liberated from all witch craft and I pray she comes back renewed / revived in the power of God, Son and Holy Spirit. Relief of an unjust sentence, asking the Lord to place a stop of being defrauded of my liberty. Expose every-dirty work of Satan that has been used against me. May Gods power turn things around and bless me to receive restoration of blessings and goodness, Amen.
- Michelle H .....Pray for Richard, unspoken word.
- Michael S. ....I ask for prayer of my Faith, my Marriage. Prayer over my walk with Christ, I have any obstacles or struggles released. To lean not on my own understanding but on God's

understanding. For God to accept my marriage as I surrender it to Him. To reveal any darkness in it. I would like prayer for this ministry, may God continue using you and blessing you, In Jesus Christs name, AMEN! Love to all my brothers and sisters.

Anthony M. ....Pray for his recovery for significant heart issues, surgeries and procedures. Also pray for his family and wife who are also stressing over his condition.

Dale C .....Praying he resists the negative spirits attacking him and gets back on his medications and assuming his responsibilities again.

Dave P. ....Pray that the Lord will heal him and strengthen him. He turned 53 in January and found out that he has stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He tried to get into the City of Hope's cancer treatment program, but for whatever reason they did not accept him. He is currently going through Chemo-Therapy.

Judi R .....Just tested positive for cancer. Still much unknown. Please pray for her and her family. Her husband, Richard, also struggles with Alzheimer's which has been difficult for the whole family.

Rosalind K. ....Pray that the Lord will heal my spleen.

Joanne R. ....We pray for a successful back surgery and speedy recovery. **Praise Report: She is healing from a successful back surgery!**

Donald A. ....Pray for Chaplain Helerbent for "G" Yard to get off of lockdown and have a revival and Chapel services again.

Raymond W ...I request prayer for everyone on this prayer list. I pray that God will let me one day go home. I thank God for my life, even while in custody. In His Name

Mar C .....Prayer for healing after a fall, broken ribs and collapsed lung. Pray for a fast recovery. **Praise Report: She is doing better. Prayer for continued healing.**

Michael S .....I request prayer for my walk and to continue to grow in faith. Also, that my prison sentence be shortened, For my family and their safety. For my wife "Angela" stays in our marriage. That all non-believers become unmuted and unblinded by Satan so that they can become believers, that any strongholds that Satan has on me that God binds them and that He becomes my stronghold. Also, for your ministry that God allows it to prosper and he blesses every brother and sister involved. In Jesus name, Amen.

Dave G .....Prayer for continued safety. Continue prayer for deliverance through the appeal and to be reunified with my children. They are all grown now. Please pray for their salvation.

Richard D. ....Prayer as he goes through some medical issues, three family members have taken their own life. Pray for the surviving family's healing. Please keep him in pray as he

transitions to a facility. Also, for Richard to be strong, kind and humble as he moves to a new living environment. Pray that Robert G. to find peace inside these concrete walls and electric fence, and for his Mom- Kids and Family.

Yolanda.....“The Cable Lady” asks for prayer for her people and her situation. God knows what she needs as we reach out for her to be uplifted in the Lord.

Robert G.....Prayer for the Griller, Solorio, Latner, Brown & Griffin Families that God Strengthen and comfort all of these families and draw those who don’t know Him close unto Him. Asking for prayer for Richard D’s., daughter’s safety and that they be able to write him more. Also pray for Linda L. that God comforts her as she battles cancer and she stays surrounded by family & Christian family during this trying time.

Aimee P.....Prayer for relief from Multiple Sclerosis and her comfort and for her to draw nearer to Christ throughout this trial.

Thomas G.....Prayer for God to restore him to his family and keep him healthy. Pray for his children and grandchildren’s safety and salvation.

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The Lord’s Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website      Yes    No

Place request in Newsletter            Yes    No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)

Mail to: The Lord’s Mountain Movers, PO Box 1211, Boulevard, CA 91905-0311

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