

# Merciful God

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BETH EDEN  
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# INTRODUCTION

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- A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
- My favorite question to get to know others spiritually is “What attribute of God is especially dear to you right now?”
- Story #1 – Mitchell
- Story #2 – Brad and Bonnie
- Story #3 – Bud

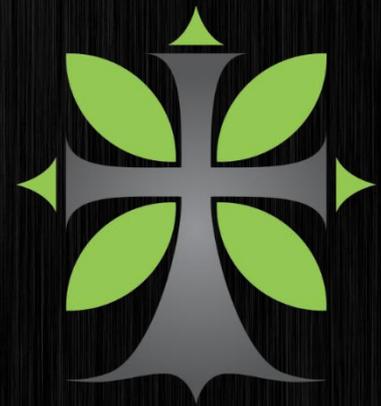


# What is Mercy?

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***Simple Definition*** – Mercy is God’s withholding from us what we deserve.  
(Complements God’s grace – which gives us what we have not earned and do not deserve.)

***Systematic Definition*** – “God’s goodness toward those in misery and distress.”



# What is Mercy?

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***Jim Berg*** – “Rescuing someone from his miserable condition.”

## ***3 Parts of a Biblical Definition of Mercy***

- Miserable or Pitiful Condition
- Kind or Good Intervention
- Some Degree of Help or Rescue



# God of Mercy

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God's mercy, grace and patience are often presented together.

- *Exodus 34:6 – Then the LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.”*
- *Psalms 103:8 – The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.*



# God of Mercy

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When portrayed alone, God's mercy is usually connected to human distress.

- *2 Samuel 24:14 – Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great . . .”*
- *Matthew 9:27 – As Jesus went from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”*



# God of Mercy

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## **3 Levels of Misery**

*(God is More than Enough by Jim Berg)*

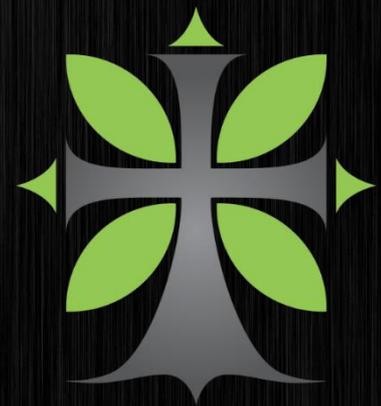
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Level of Misery – Condition of physical and emotional suffering.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Level of Misery – Condition of a believer out of fellowship with God.
- Ultimate Misery – Condition of the lost in Hell.



# God of Mercy

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**Summary Principle:** God is a God of mercy; and His mercy meets us at every level of miserable need.



# Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

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## ***Pitiful Condition –***

*Titus 3:3 – For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

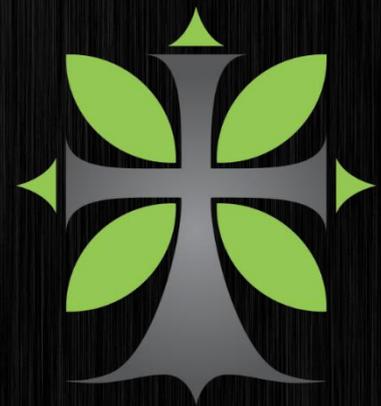


# Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

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***Amazing Mercy –***

*Titus 3:4 – But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared*



# Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

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## ***3 Key Gospel Mercy Principles***

1. Because I am part of the “we” in verse 3, I was in a pitiful condition and was in need of God’s saving mercy.
2. The “But God’s” of Scripture are merciful (and mighty) adversatives.

**Key Principle: No mercy . . .  
no Gospel!**



# Gospel Mercy (Titus 3:3-8)

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## ***3 Key Gospel Mercy Principles***

- 3. Contemplation of our pitiful condition and God's amazing mercy produces good works.**



# Mercy and Me

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1. 1 Peter 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
2. As Christians, we continually draw near to God seeking mercy . . . and we find mercy.



# Mercy and Me

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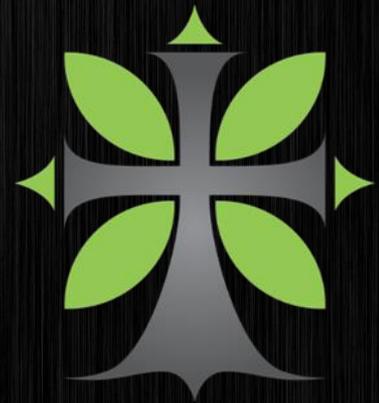
Because mercy is a communicable attribute of God . . .

3. We are to faithfully steward God's comfort and mercy.
4. True religion ministers in mercy to those under the weight of circumstantial hardship.
5. Matthew 5:7 – Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.



# Merciful God

Merciful God, O abounding in love,  
Faithful to all who draw near You;  
Hearing the cries of the humble in heart,  
Showing the cross they may cling to.  
Broken I come, helpless in sin,  
Found at the feet of Your mercy.  
Father, forgive; may my sin be  
remembered no more.



# Merciful God

Merciful God, O abounding in love,  
Faithful through times we have failed You;  
Selfish in thought and uncaring in deed,  
Foolish in word and ungrateful.  
Spirit of God, conquer our hearts  
With love that flows from forgiveness;  
Cause us to yield and return to  
the mercy of God.



# Merciful God

Merciful God, O abounding in love,  
Faithful to keep us from falling;  
Guiding our ways with Your fatherly heart,  
Growing our faith with each testing.  
God speed the day struggles will end;  
Faultless we'll gaze on Your glory.  
Then we will stand overwhelmed by  
the mercy of God.





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