

WHY DO WE SAY, "LORD, HAVE MERCY"?

God is always pouring down His love upon everyone; the holy and the wicked all receive freely of His love. God's mercy, though, is a different matter. God's mercy releases us from severe judgment and condemnation even though we might deserve it, but **God gives His mercy only to those who ask for it with humble and contrite hearts.**

Nevertheless, some people believe that their claiming to accept Jesus as their Savior guarantees their entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. Because of this, they also believe that all of their sins, while an offense to God, have already been forgiven in Jesus while He was on the Cross. Consequently, they conceptualize all this as a matter of God "overlooking" their sins. Yet the truth is that God does not "overlook" our sins as a matter of course. Through His death on the Cross, Christ paid for our redemption. Redemption (sometimes called justification) is God's gift to us. It's a gift completely unmerited on our part. It's a gift that pays the mystical penalty for our Original -Sin. This penalty, which no person by his or her own efforts can ever pay, was paid through the sacrifice of Christ.

Consequently, all souls have been redeemed by the mystical sacrifice of Christ, **but every soul individually needs to accept that redemption by repenting its sins and living a holy lifestyle.** The salvation of any soul requires a profound, life-long personal battle against evil and to do this, we need to cry out to God for mercy.

In making this cry for mercy, we in effect say to God, "Lord, we have done nothing to merit the redemption you offer us, but we are willing to do the hard work to accept that gift. Look upon us with compassion as we, wretched sinners that we are, take up this struggle to accept and make good use of your gift. "

Yet when many of us say, "Lord, have mercy," we are not really speaking from a place of profound heartfelt contrition and we aren't trembling at the battle before us; instead, we are thinking, "Lord, go easy on me." In thinking like this, we show ourselves to be too lazy, too arrogant, and too self-indulgent—too lukewarm—to be willing to surrender ourselves completely to divine love.

Therefore, we look for any easy way. Like a convicted criminal, we cry out, "Mercy!" hoping to get off easy without losing anything.

I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart. I use punishment when they themselves force me to do so; my hand is reluctant to take hold of the sword of Justice. Before the Day of Justice I am sending the Day of Mercy.... / cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy.... Tell sinners that no one shall escape My hand; if they run away from My Merciful Heart, they will fall into My Just Hands. —told to Saint Faustina by Jesus, Diary (1588, 1146, 1728)

To trust in The Divine Mercy is to believe in the reality of sin and to tremble before the Divine Justice that punishes all unrepentant sin. To say, "Lord, have mercy" in full spiritual honesty means that you are begging God not to be easy on you but to give you the life experiences that will break you and humble you— not humiliate you—and crack open your hardened heart.

I desire that these souls distinguish themselves by boundless trust in My mercy. I myself will attend to the sanctification of such souls. I will provide them with everything they need to attain sanctity. The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is—trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.—told to Saint Faustina by Jesus, Diary (1578)

A Genuine Plea for Mercy: O LORD, I am weak and broken, surrounded on all sides by corruption and perversion. LORD have mercy on me: protect me from my enemies who would devour me, and guide me in the Way of Perfection. No matter what happens around me, whether it be attack or seduction, may my love for You protect me from falling into sin. May I live a holy life no matter what others do around me.