
Sharon's Communiqué...
Fresh. Encouraging. True.

COULD GOD EVER FORGIVE ME?

By Sharon Houk

Yes, yes, yes! Thankfully, there is nothing too big, no person too bad for God to forgive. To carry around guilt of wrongdoing, whether it's a lifetime of guilt, or guilt from something you did wrong last week is like walking through life with a ball and chain around your ankle.

The harshness of the guilt wears on you, slows you down in life and interrupts everything you do. Before long, your legs are bloodied and bruised, and life looks grim and without hope. Forgiveness is the key and God holds it out to you because he loves you.

It's hard to imagine a God that is said to be "out there" somewhere being able to love us personally. But, he does; he cares about us. That is why he sent his son Jesus to die for all of our sins. He longs to forgive us and remove the shackles and chains called sin from around our ankles. The Bible says that, "Jesus is the one appointed by God to

be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will *have their sins forgiven* through his name."

Additionally, look at this promise, "I want you to know that *through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you*. Through him, everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the Ten Commandments.

You can be forgiven, all you need to do is apologize to the One to whom you have wronged—that is, God. Sin makes us miserable; God's forgiveness makes us free. Sin will ultimately take the "unforgiven's" life one day and keep him or her in darkness (Hell) for eternity; God's forgiveness gives every person light to live eternally without fear. Sin is what Jesus died for; ask for God's forgiveness today.