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Can God Really Forgive Me?

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I wonder how many times this question has crossed the minds of people searching for forgiveness? Some believe (wrongly) that their case is too difficult, too shocking, too strange, too complex for God to solve. Is that a legitimate concern? Could it be that your or my situation is “too much” for God to try to fix? Consider these truths:

- God has no boundary to His strength (Job 9:4).
- God has never failed to finish what He starts (Acts 2:23).
- God made you, He can re-make you through repentance and regeneration (2 Co. 5:17).
- God’s hand is not shortened that He cannot save (Isaiah 59:1)
- God is merciful and has abundant capacity to pardon (Isaiah 55:7).

Paul considered himself the “chief of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15) and a “wretched man” (Romans 7:24) and yet he believed that God could forgive him (Ephesians 1:7)! Are we worse than Paul? What about David who was a liar, an adulterer, a murderer and yet, also, a “man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22).

I know we are not to compare “ourselves to ourselves” (2 Corinthians 10:12) to justify unrighteous behavior. But, doesn’t it make sense that we should compare “ourselves to ourselves” to justify righteous? If not, what does even Paul mean when he says, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)? That does not mean we say, look at me I am better than Brother or Sister _____. What it does mean is that righteous behavior is worth noticing and emulating to the glory of the Father. Let’s work together to help each other forgive and be forgiven so that we can all go to heaven together! Amen?