

God's Covenant of "Forgiveness"

Genesis 16:1-5 & 17:1-9

St. Augustine is the author of this familiar saying: "Pray as though everything depended on _____. Work as though everything depended on _____." Properly applied, this has some truth in it, but if misapplied, it can lead to _____ as Abraham discovered.

Ten years had passed since Abraham first heard God's _____, and no child had been born to him and Sarah. Sarah had a young servant girl, so Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham as if a wife, and she bore them a _____. Their _____ did not fit God _____ or promise. There are times, many of them, when working as if everything depends on us is an affront to God's trustworthiness and therefore _____ in His eyes. Abraham and Sarah found a way to produce a son on their own...without _____ help.

I wonder how often, with all our good intentions, God must _____ the things we have done because we did so without taking time to _____ the plan and purposes of God. We learn that God did that for Abraham as well in Gen. 17:1-9.

God came again to Abraham after 13 years. Maybe Abraham felt God had given up on him because of his _____. Abraham learned that failure is never _____ with God. God offered Abraham a new start with a new name to show the _____ of God's forgiveness. Abraham had to _____. So, they made a covenant, an agreement. Jesus said of His death on the cross, this is the new _____ in His blood. On the cross, Jesus not only covered our sin, He paid the penalty for it, and removes it as if, from God's perspective, it had never happened.

God loves to forgive—not just overlooking our sin but _____ in the person of Christ to pay the full price for it _____.

One author misspelled the word forgiveness as "_____." That's what God does...forgives the messes we make of things. He forgives it all. Not by overlooking it. By blotting it out _____.