

GOD IS FORGIVING. JESUS THE FORGIVING SAVIOUR

Islam: -

Sura 2:109 Commands Muslims to forgive and overlook the people of the book who want you to turn back from Islam.

Sura 5:9 “ To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness hath Allah promised forgiveness and a reward.”

Sura 2:286 “ On no soul does Allah place a burden greater than it can bear. It gets every good that it earns, and it suffers every ill that it earns Our Lord!
Condemn us not if we forget or fall into error Our Lord laid not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Blot out our sins. And grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. Thou art our protector, help us against those who stand against the faith.”

Our Faith: -

1) Can we see a difference here to what we believe?

Where does it talk about burdens in the Bible? In the Sura above there is a statement that God will not over burden them but they are not sure because there is a plead that God would not over burden them.

But we know that God has promised to never ever over burden us!

Mat.11: 28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest in your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

2) Do we earn goodness? Do we always suffer ill because we earn it? Is forgiveness dependant upon deeds of righteousness? (As in Sura 5:9 above).

We do not earn God's goodness to us. We do not earn Gods forgiveness either. We all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (**Rom.3: 23**) therefore in a way we deserve to suffer but because of **Gods** great **love** for us He sent His one and only son Jesus so that who ever believes him will not die but have eternal life. (See **John 3:16-18**).

3) Do we need to pray that God will not condemn us if we forget?

We know that God is loving and will forgive. We do not need to plead but just ask, repent and receive his forgiveness. We need not worry. God is absolute love and because He loves us, if we do not know we have done wrong or if we have forgotten about it then He cannot condemn us. A loving thing would be to remind us if we have done wrong so that we can confess it and receive forgiveness and start again. The Lord often does this through others or in sermons at church or by using our conscience directly.

Jesus taught us to pray and ask our Father to forgive us all our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. **Mat 6:12**

We are forgiven and are not condemned when we trust and believe in Him and when we repent.

The Sura pleads with God to blot out our sins. But our Bible assures us that our sins are blotted out.

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remember your sins no more”.

Psalms 103:12-13 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so The Lord has compassion on those who fear him”.

In the Old Testament we see that God will always forgive us we are certain of this.

We can offer this certainty to our friends and relatives.

4) Can we tell them any stories or events from the old and New Testament that will assure them of this?

The true historical story of Joseph is one. Muslims and Jews know about him.

First tell the story in a free style then turn to the bible. It's in **Gen. chapters 37-46** Joseph was much loved by his father and the youngest of 12 brothers. He has a dream about him being a ruler over his brothers. Joseph had been sold into slavery. Sent to Egypt by his jealous brothers. He had been employed by Potiphar. Potiphar's wife was jealous and Joseph ended up in prison. Then Pharaoh had a dream. Joseph interpreted it. Joseph became second governor of the nation. The dream came true. There was a famine.

Gen 45:4-11 Then Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph could have been vindictive but he was not. He forgave. Joseph had just cause for retribution but he forgave.

Here then is an example for all of us to forgive because God allows some events that seem bad to happen for our good.

You could tell the parable of the lost son. Can we tell it now?

Lk 15:17 Then conclude with The Prodigal son father. The Father was not vindictive or judgemental. His heart went out to reach Him and he forgave his lost son and welcomed him home.

You could also use the parable of the unmerciful Servant. **Mat 18.21-35**

The complete and perfect example is Jesus: -

Lk.23-34 On the cross Jesus forgave them. We also must forgive those who may have hurt us in our lives.

5) How does God Forgive?

By the shedding of blood. It is always this way in the bible in the Old Testament and the New. **Heb 9:22** "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness".

Lev 4:1-5 Animal sacrifice in the OT is replaced by Jesus' sacrifice in the NT.

Heb 9:11-14 Jesus our great high priest entered into the presence of God not by means of the blood of animals (as in Islam and Judaism) but by his own blood (**vs 12**).

Because Jesus was perfect and pure and did nothing wrong in God's eyes (he was unblemished) so He was accepted by God as the perfect sacrifice. By faith in Him we are cleansed (washed free) so that we may serve the living God.

Can we make a bridge here between something our friends would understand and Jesus?

Gen 22:1-19 Every year at Eid time our Muslim friends; remember the sacrifice that Abraham was about to make of his son. It was a test of faith. God had promised to make a great nation out of him and now God commanded Abraham to sacrifice him. How then could there be a fulfilment of God's promises? God at the last minute provided a perfect lamb for the sacrifice. Now today we know that God has provided Jesus the perfect sacrifice for our sins. When we are certain of absolute forgiveness we believe in Him turn around from our sins and trust in him.