

Mercy

A Prayer

Almighty God, I don't need a major moral failure to experience Your mercy.
I experience Your mercy every time you give me what I don't deserve.

You are an unbounded Being, complete in Yourself,
the source of all life and all that is.
My existence is a mercy.

You are infinite in excellence, perfect in power, wisdom, and love.
You graciously gave me fellowship with You.
I rejected You and chose myself: a speck of dust, a breath, utterly corrupt.
I chose death, yet You continue to give me life.
Every moment is a mercy.

I am insignificant. Living in Your presence, sharing existence with You,
I deserve to be completely ignored. Your attention is a mercy.
Even Your anger, Your judgment, Your condemnation are mercies.

Holy and just God, You know all that I have thought and said and done.
Condemned, I deserve whatever punishment can be inflicted
on such a miserable creature as me.
Your total forgiveness is an unspeakable mercy.

Though I am marvelously forgiven,
my response to You continues to be lukewarm, inconsistent, and ungrateful.
I deserve Your disgust.
Instead, in mercy You fill me with Yourself and tenderly grow me toward You.
Day by day, every breath is a mercy.
This beautiful earth is a mercy.
Every chance to know You better is a mercy.
Your faithful Spirit is such a mercy!
The amazing privilege of prayer is a mercy.
Your unfailing patience with my ignorance, weakness, and selfishness is a mercy.
*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions
never fail. They are new every morning.* (Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV)

Almighty God, my Father, You are compassion.
You are kindness and goodness. You are deep and enduring love.
My entire existence, every moment and forever, is enfolded in Your unending mercy.
Praise to You! All praise to You, my Savior and my God!

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