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The Snow of Forgiveness
Psalms 51; I John 1: 8-10
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It doesn't snow in Houston. You may never been where it snows, but I remember living in places where it does snow. When it does, it covers the ground like a beautiful white blanket, hiding every flaw that lay beneath. When I think of snow what comes to mind is King David's plea to God: "wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." John writes, *"If we confess our sins to Him, He can be depended on to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this because Christ died to wash away our sins."*

Forgiveness really is a big deal. It does not come without cost or risk. It cost God a humbling and painful death on a garbage dump. It costs us our pride and dependence on our own goodness. It is God's gift of love to the crying heart of those who fail. It becomes our gift to heal and be healed. It is God's way to straighten out the worst in us. It is our only solid way to mend broken lives and relationships. God Himself personally came to demonstrate it and commands each of us to follow His lead.

God's forgiveness means that sin - the stains, dirt, cracks, failures, wounds, and evil in, on, and from our lives - is covered over whiter than the whitest snow and cast away forever from His memory. Our part is honest confession with appropriate change in the way we run our lives. Forgiveness takes a lot of courage and humility because it calls us to consciously choose to give up our right to hold wrongs against others and ourselves.

At some point in our life and relationships, forgiveness will be the only way left to heal the wounds that rub us raw each day. What we gain is a fresh start daily, deep healing, a clean life, and a humble view of ourselves. What we lose is that which keeps us in conflict - loneliness, bitterness, fear, rejection, and illness. Forgiveness is but a prayer away and a conscious decision on our part. Today we can be made whiter than snow.