



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“God Restores”

There is an old song that says, "Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above, With wisdom, power, and love, Our God is an awesome God." Yes, our God is awesome, and here is a partial list of His

amazing attributes: He never changes. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all-wise, faithful, and good. In addition to that, He is compassionate, kind, and loving.

These are all wonderful attributes, but one more stands out as being near the top of the list: He is merciful.

Lamentations 3:22-23 KJV

22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

What a wonderful thought; His mercies are new every morning! Not only are they new every morning, they are extended to all, no matter what they have done.

Acts 2:21 KJV

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

We point out these things when trying to lead sinners to Christ. We want them to know that no matter what they have done, God will have mercy on them, remove the guilt of their sin, cast it into the depths of the sea, and never allow it to be used against them. I will say it one more time,

"Our God is an awesome God."

We all know these things are true, but I find it strange that the message often seems to change after someone places their faith in this awesome, unchangeable God. For some strange reason, God's unconditional love and mercy are no longer offered as freely as before they came to Christ. Pastors who have fallen prey to Satan's evil schemes are often cast aside as being unfit ever to minister again. Can this be right?

To answer this question, we need only look at Jesus' teachings. The parable of the prodigal son is the first one that comes to my mind. This parable tells of a son who asked for his inheritance and then went to a distant country, where he wasted his fortune in reckless, immoral living.

Luke 15:17-20 KJV

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

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20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Somehow, this story does not seem to match how we treat those in the Body of Christ who have fallen. Through the years, we have had many opportunities to forgive and restore people who were broken and deep in sin. Many times, they were people we had hired. Some refused to repent and could not be restored, but others did repent, and it brought us such joy to see them fully restored to the calling God had placed on their lives.

Galatians 6:1 KJV

1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;

Another illustration of God's amazing love and mercy is the Jewish people. The Jewish people committed a sin God finds most abhorrent, and that is the worship of idols. They have paid a terrible price for their sin, but God has not abandoned them.

Romans 11:26-27 KJV

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Let me share my story with you. My older brother was also like the prodigal. He grew up in a home with ten children where we were taught the Bible and attended church every Sunday. In spite of this, he became rebellious and drifted away from serving God. He joined the Navy, and when he left, he told me he didn't believe in God. I responded by telling him I was going to pray for him every night and believe for his salvation. I am overjoyed to tell you that about two years later he met a fine Christian

girl, repented, and his life was completely transformed. God forgave and restored him, and he became a strong leader in every church they attended. His unbelief and sin did not change God's promises nor His faithfulness!

I want to reassure you, no matter what you may have done, God has not turned against you, nor does He consider you to be of no value. The message you believed when you first came to Christ is still true today. Nothing has changed! God's love for you is unchanging and His mercies are still new every morning. There may be things you will have to face as a consequence of your sin, but being abandoned by God is not one of them. He is a God of restoration, and just like the father of the prodigal, He will completely restore you.

Micah 7:18 Amplified Bible

18 Who is a God like You, who forgives wickedness, and passes over the rebellious acts of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He [constantly] delights in mercy and lovingkindness.

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!

