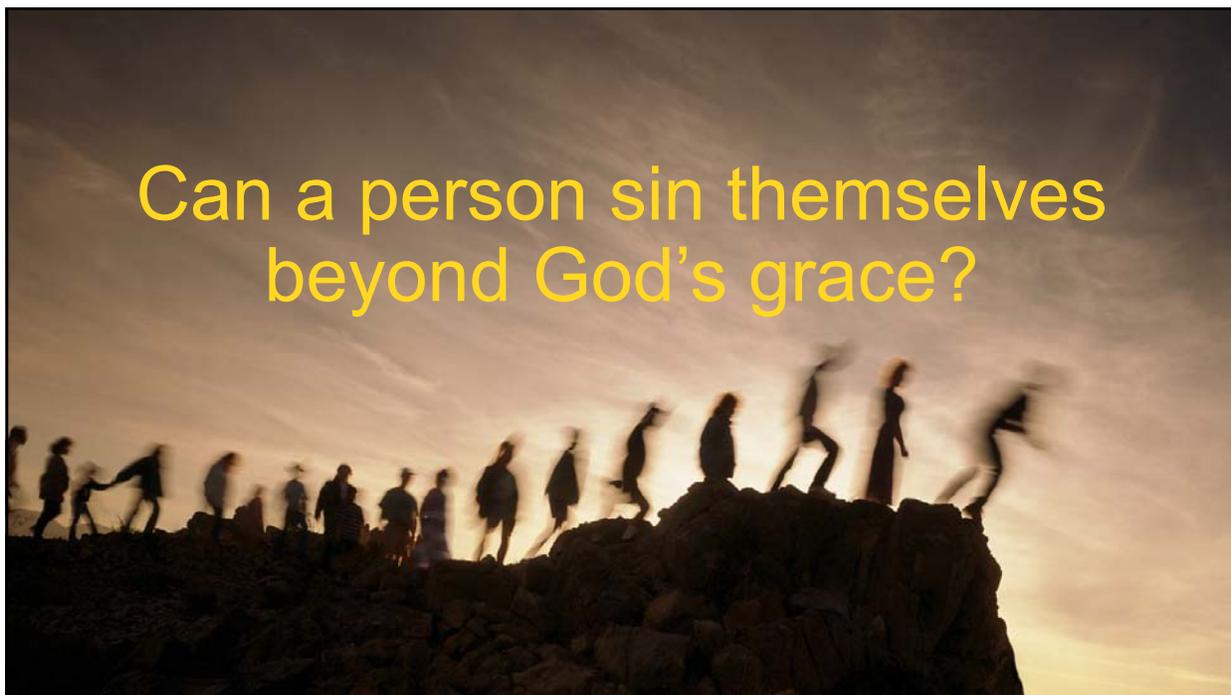
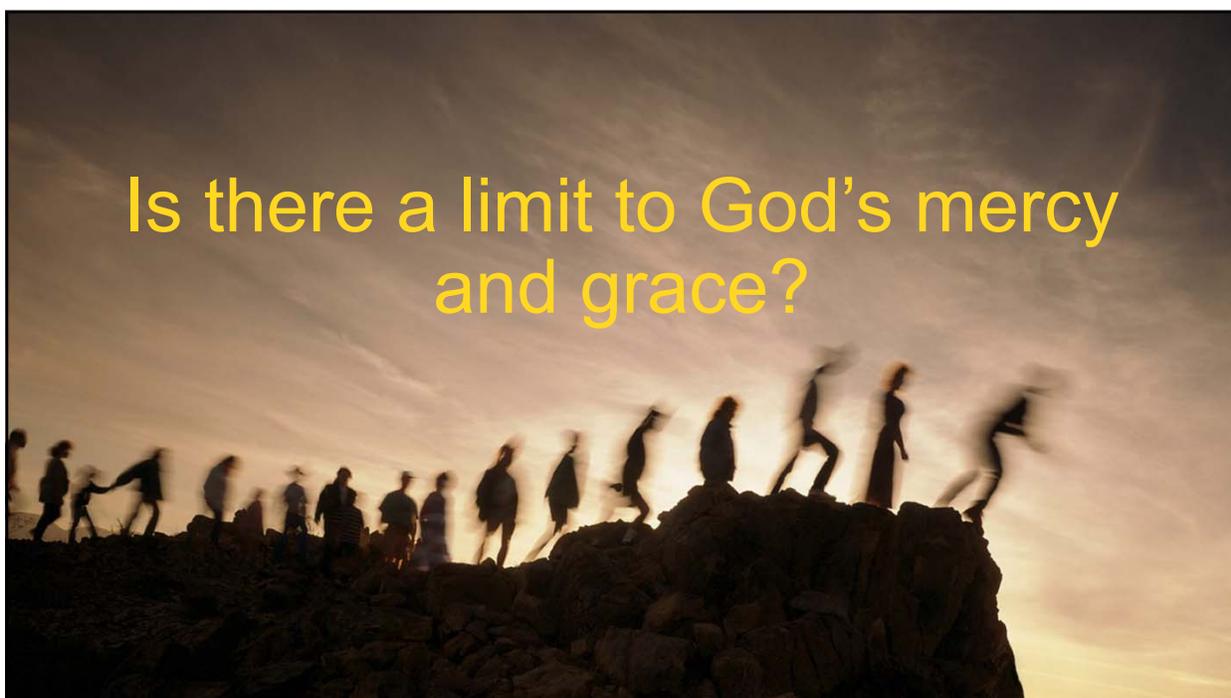


Can a person sin themselves
beyond God's grace?



Is there a limit to God's mercy
and grace?



Mercy = not receiving what we do deserve

Grace = receiving what we do not deserve

2 Pet 3:9-10 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

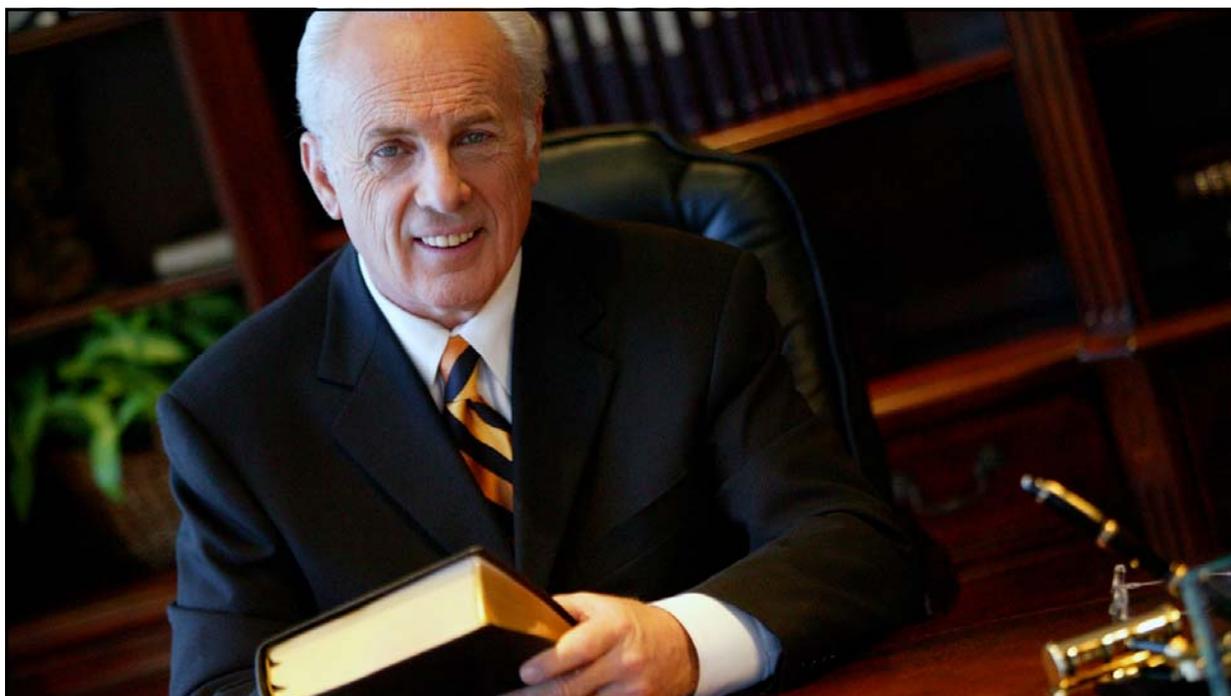
1 Pet 3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved

Acts 19:8-9 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. ⁹But when some were **hardened** and **did not believe**, but **spoke evil of the Way** before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples,

Scripture warns against a “hardened” heart

The “hardening” Luke speaks of in Acts 19 is the same used in Exodus when Pharaoh hardened his own heart first and then God further hardened it as well.

Heb 3:7-8,12-13 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, ... ¹²Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.



“The imperfect tense of the verb shows that the hardening was a process. Over the course of Paul’s three-month ministry in the Ephesian synagogue, some hearts gradually hardened against the gospel. When the truth is rejected repeatedly, it hardens the heart, and the message of salvation becomes an ‘aroma from death to death’ (2 Cor 2:16).” John MacArthur

Ps 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.”

Rom 2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Scripture also warns against “speaking evil” of those in authority over us

Mt 15:4, Mk 7:10 teach that, under the Law, he who cursed his father or mother should be put to death

2 Pet 2:10-11 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, ¹¹whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Jude 8-10 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. ⁹Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” ¹⁰But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

J. Harold Smith
(1910-2001)

“God’s Three Deadlines”

1. The “unpardonable sin”
1. Sinning away your day of grace
1. The “sin unto death”



Hos 4:17 Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone.

Mt 10:14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Heb 10:26-28 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

The “unpardonable sin”

Mt 12:31-32 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³²Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

What is the sin of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

John MacArthur: It was attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit.

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: “To commit this sin one must consciously, persistently, deliberately, and maliciously reject the testimony of the Spirit to the deity and saving power of the Lord Jesus. ... The unpardonable sin is not some particularly grievous sin committed by a Christian before or after accepting Christ, nor is it thinking or saying something terrible about the Holy Spirit. Rather, it is deliberately resisting the Holy Spirit’s witness and invitation to turn to Jesus until death ends all opportunity.”



Dr. R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries:

“Worrying about whether one has committed the unforgivable sin is one of the clearest evidences that the troubled person has not committed this sin, for those who commit it are so hardened in their hearts that they do not care that they commit it. Blasphemers of the Holy Spirit are so hardened against God that they do not care about sin, so if we are repentant, we can be sure we have not blasphemed the Spirit.”

“Sinning away your day of grace”

Amos 4:6-12

- God said that He sent five different warnings to Israel in the form of plagues.
- Then He said, “Yet you have not returned to Me.”
- So in response to their abstinence, the Lord said, “Prepare to Your God!”

Rom 2:3-6 ... O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who “will render to each one according to his deeds”:

“The sin unto death”

1 Jn 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

1 Cor 5:5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The Doomed Man

Joseph A. Alexander, 1837

There is a time – we know not when, a point – we know not
where,
That marks the destiny of men to glory or despair;
There is a line, by us unseen, that crosses every path,
The hidden boundary between God's patience and His wrath.

To pass that limit is to die, to die as if by stealth;
It does not quench the beaming eye, nor fade the glow of health;
The conscience may be still at ease, the spirit light and gay;
That which is pleasing, still may please, and care be thrust away.

But on that forehead God has set indelibly a mark,
Unseen by man, for man, as yet, is blind and in the dark;
And yet the doomed man's path below like Eden may have
bloomed,

He did not, does not, will not know nor feel that he is doomed.

He thinks or feels that all is well, and ev'ry fear is calmed;
He lives, he dies, he wakes in Hell, not only doomed but
damned!

Oh, where is this mysterious bourn by which our path is crossed,
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn that he who goes is lost?

How far may we go on in sin? how long will God forbear?
Where does hope end, and where begin the confines of despair?
An answer from the skies is sent, "Ye that from God depart,
While it is called "today" repent, and harden not your heart."

Oh, come today, do not delay, too late it soon will be;
To Jesus fly, for mercy cry, He waits to welcome thee.