\*THE MERCIFUL GOD. \*

Mercy can be defined as, act of compassion or forgiveness shown to an offender.

The bible says:

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

Lam 3:22.

As a young believer many years ago, I pondered on what should be the core of my prayers and petitions before God; then I stumbled on \*Lamentations 3:22.\*

Contextually, the verse translates to mean that if we are to be judged by our deeds or way of life; we would have seen the wrath of God.

I believe the verse is for everybody; because the bible says:

\*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"\*

Romans 3:23

Similarly, in the court of law, when a Judge is about to give judgement to an accused person, he will give the accused the opportunity to state reasons why he or she should not be convicted and punished for the offence(s) committed.

Then the lawyer or the accused person that is remorseful will normally say to the judge:

 \*"Temper justice with mercy".\*

Meaning: do not give the judgement on the strength or reality of what has been done, but be merciful.

It is a way of pleading for leniency, that the full wrath of the Law should not be melted on the accused person.

Fellow believers, if there is anything that we should ask God for on a daily basis, \*It's God's mercy.\*

It is because of His mercy that you and I are alive today and not by our works.

That's why the Psalmist said:

 \*"If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?"\*

Psalm 130:3.

In the same vein, I believe the reason certain prayers of vengeance the Church has been praying against the "perceived enemy" of Christianity has not been answered is simply that God wants to give them the \*chance to repent.\*

God does not reason the way we reason. He said:

 \*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord"\*

Isaiah 55:8.

The greatest attribute of the God we serve is that \*He is a merciful God\* and His mercies endures forever.

 \*Psalm 136\*

The Psalmist also says:

\*"For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them".\*

Deu 4:31

God reserves the prerogatives on who to bestow His mercy on, God is sovereign; He said to Moses,

 \*"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion, It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy".\*

Romans 9:15&16.

God has a way of giving everyone the opportunity to reconcile his or her ways before Him.

 \*"Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon".\*

Isaiah 55:7.

The first major step to receiving mercy from God is to confess our sins before Him.

The bible says:

\*"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy".\*

Prov 28:13.

King David, sinned against God when he numbered the Isrealites, contrary to God's instruction, when he heard the punishments for his actions. David said:

\*“I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man.”\*

2 Samuel 24:14.

 \*However, we cannot take the mercies of God for granted. A perpetual sinner is looking for God's wrath.\*

In as much as God is full of mercy, He can also show His fearful side.

\*Prayer\* : May the mercy of God, peace, and love be multiplied to you and your family in Jesus name. 🙏🏼.

In conclusion, seeking for God's mercy; which is forgiveness is so important for us that Jesus taught us to pray it daily.

Apart from pleading for God's mercy, God wants us to be merciful to those who have wronged us too.

\*Matthew 6:9-13\*

He told the disciples about a parable of the unmerciful servant to instil in us the need to show leniency or mercy to others.

 \*Matthew 18:21-35\*

Jesus says:

\*"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful".\*

Luke 6:36.

Shalom.

\*JESUS CARES\*

www.soulsforgod.com.

Signed, Bro Cole