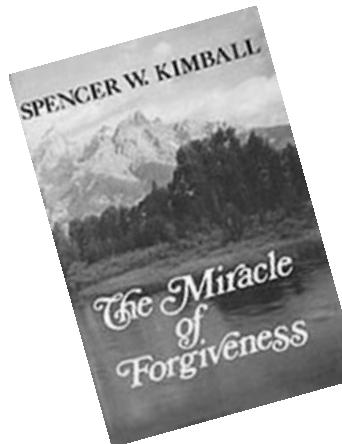


Important References

- This life is the time to prepare—pages 1, 10, 117, 210, 248
- Man must perfect himself to become as God—p. 2
- Hope and desire do not translate into works —p. 8
- Cannot delay compliance with God's commandments—p. 10
- This life is the time to repent—p. 11
- No unclean thing can enter God's presence—p. 19
- A list of more than 100 sins the Lord condemns—p. 25
- Covenant breakers are described as wicked—p. 57
- Man is the master of his destiny—p. 83
- Murder is unforgivable—pp. 127, 131 (see Alma 24:10; Hel. 8:26)
- Christ's death offers exemption from punishment of *most* sins—p. 133
- Repentance is abandonment of sin—p. 163
- Trying is not sufficient—Parable of the army officer—p. 164
- Can't repent on a cross, in prison, or custody—p. 167
- Temper, tongue, and flesh must be overcome—p. 168
- Cannot sin again and again and except repeated forgiveness—170, 360
- Exaltation cannot come without works—p. 207
- Eternal life awaits the works of men—p. 208
- Living all the commandments assures forgiveness—p. 208
- Perfection is an achievable goal—p. 209
- Must overcome, become perfected in this mortality—p. 210
- Incomplete repentance never brought complete forgiveness—p. 212
- No man can be saved without a woman by his side—p. 245
- Temple ordinances will not help the unworthy—p. 246
- Celestial marriage must take place in this life—p. 247
- God will not show mercy and give unearned blessings—p. 249
- Forgiveness not for the asking, it could take centuries—p. 325
- Urge to sin must be cleared out of your life—p. 354

If you would like additional information, please visit our website

www.themiracleofforgiveness.com



The Miracle of Forgiveness

by Spencer W. Kimball

Why are we giving away this book?

President Spencer W. Kimball wrote a book that we believe every Latter-day Saint ought to read. So, we are offering you a free copy of this important work.

From our perspective, it contains non-biblical teachings, including:

- Mankind has the ability to perfect himself and become an omniscient and omnipotent God (p.2).
- No one can repent on a cross, nor in prison, nor in custody (p. 167).
- Forgiveness is cancelled on reversion to sin (p. 169).
- Discontinuance of sin must be permanent (p. 176).
- Keeping God's commandments brings forgiveness (p. 201).
- Salvation by grace alone was originated by Satan (p. 206).
- Only by living all of the commandments can a Mormon be sure he or she is forgiven (p. 208).
- Personal perfection is an achievable goal (p. 209).
- The time to become perfect is now, in this mortality (p. 210).
- Forgiveness could take "centuries" and is granted based on a Mormon's humility, sincerity, works, and attitudes (p. 325).
- The repentance which merits forgiveness requires the transgressor to reach the point where the very desire or urge to sin is "cleared out of his life" (pp. 354-355).

Now, some might argue that this book is not part of the "standard words" and is therefore not authoritative. This argument is weak on many points, including:

- 1) Though written when he was an apostle, the book was reprinted while Kimball was president of the church. If Kimball thought that he had erred in his teachings, why didn't he, or the LDS Church itself, correct

the mistakes? Besides, wasn't most of the New Testament written by mere apostles? If Mormonism is truly a "restoration" of early Christianity, why don't Mormon apostles carry the same authority as New Testament apostles?

- 2) For many years, on the second floor of the LDS Museum of History and Art (west of Temple Square), there was a huge display highlighting all of the presidents of the LDS Church. Next to Kimball's painting is a copy of *The Miracle of Forgiveness* preserved under a glass case. If this book should be forgotten, why has the church given it a prominent display in its museum?
- 3) If this book should not be taken seriously by members of the LDS Church, why has church-owned Deseret Book celebrated the book as a "landmark work"? In its March 2004 catalog, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* is called "*a penetrating explanation of repentance and forgiveness that is illuminated with a bright hope for those who are searching for peace and security. It is a landmark work that has spoken with authority and insight for 35 years, bringing to bear President Spencer W. Kimball's rich experience and the inspiration of his calling*" (p. 8).

Consider also that on two separate occasions, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* was recommended from the pulpit in general conference. For example, in an April 1970 conference message, Richard L. Evans called Kimball's book "a wonderful work":

Many of you would be familiar with President Spencer Kimball's wonderful work on the miracle of forgiveness. I witness to you that God is a loving Father who will forgive and help us find peace and self-respect as we repent and show our sincerity by the lives we live. And there is nothing he asks of us that we cannot do; there is no requirement we cannot keep—if we are willing, if we want to. Repentance is a miracle, if it is sincere (Richard L. Evans, *Conference Report*, April 1970, p.16).

In a 2004 conference message titled "Peace of Conscience and Peace of Mind," Apostle Richard G. Scott called it a "masterly work":

*"When needed, full repentance will require action on your part. If you are not familiar with the classic steps to repentance, such as confession and abandonment of sin, restitution, obedience, and seeking forgiveness, talk to a bishop or study a source such as President Spencer W. Kimball's masterly work *The Miracle of Forgiveness*."* (Richard G. Scott, *Ensign* (Conference Edition), November 2004, p.16).

Bruce H. Hafen, currently serving as a Seventy in the LDS Church, also recommended this book to LDS members when he wrote:

*"Some of us make repentance too easy, and others make it too hard. Those who make it too easy don't see any big sins in their lives, or they believe that breezy apologies alone are enough. These people should read President Spencer W. Kimball's *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, which reviews many sins of both commission and omission. And while forgiveness is a miracle, it is not won without penitent and strenuous effort"* ("Beauty for Ashes: The Atonement of Jesus Christ," *Liahona*, April 1997, p.41).

Therefore, we invite you to read Kimball's book. Ask yourself:

- What are some of the sins I struggle with (see page 25)?
- Am I following Kimball's teaching and actually doing what he says?
- Why are the excuses "I'm trying" or "I'm doing the best I can" not good enough, according to Kimball?
- Why is it dangerous to repeat the same sin I just repented of?
- Is it possible for anyone to qualify for forgiveness according to this book?

Visit our website for more information: www.themiracleofforgiveness.com. Here you can see a radio/podcast series on the this topic that covers each chapter.

When you have read the book, would you please let us know what you thought? Write us at eric@mrm.org.
Thanks for your consideration. We really do care!