



## THE AMAZING RACE: SEEKING AND FINDING FORGIVENESS

**Isaiah 55:6-9** <sup>6</sup> *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.* <sup>7</sup> *Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.* <sup>8</sup> *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.* <sup>9</sup> *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Can you be certain that forgiveness and a fresh start in life is available for you? To find forgiveness,...

### I. SEEK THE LORD WITH INTENSE DESIRE (55:6)

Seek the Lord **ACTIVELY**: "seek" - allow nothing to stand in the way of that pursuit.

Seek the Lord **URGENTLY**. *"while he may be found... while He is near."*

2 Corinthians 6:2 insists, *"now is the time of God's favor."*

### II. SEEK THE LORD WITH TOTAL SURRENDER (7)

Forgiveness depends on the totality of one's surrender to God. *"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with ALL your heart". (Jer.29:13)*

**OUTWARDLY** - lay aside the course of sinful living. *"forsake his way"*

**INWARDLY** - forsake evil thoughts: *"forsake...his thoughts"*

**RADICALLY** - *"turn to the Lord"*

### III. SEEK THE LORD WITH CERTAIN ASSURANCE (7-9)

God's forgiveness is **MORE CERTAIN** than man can imagine.

**CERTAINTY**: *"for He will freely pardon"* God's promise.

**QUALITY**: God's forgiveness is **BETTER** than mere man can imagine: *"for My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."* The Lord assures us that He is indeed better than we can imagine - even *"as the heavens are higher than the earth."*

**CONCLUSION**: Isaiah 55:8-9 provides us an assurance that God's purposes and promises are irrevocable. *"He who is the glory of Israel does not lie or change His mind for He is not man that He should change His mind. (1 Sam 15:29)*. The assurance of your forgiveness rests in the character of God Himself. To be God, He must stand true to His promise. You can be sure of seeking and finding forgiveness. Come to God while he may be found.