

Lesson Notes:

## **A God of Second Chances**

Our Lord has demonstrated in the Bible on numerous occasions that he is a God of second chances. From Abraham and Sarah to John Newton, God has granted people second chances. Below are some examples of God's love and ability to grant people a second chance to follow his direction.

### **Scriptural Principles**

**1) Abraham & Sarah** – In **Genesis 12** we have the story of Abraham and Sarah. Sarah told Abraham to take her hand maid to bare him a son since she did not conceive a son in what she considered an acceptable time frame. Yet God fulfilled his promise to Abraham and Sarah and gave them a son regardless of their earlier disobedience.

**2) Jonah** – In **Jonah 1** God wanted Jonah to preach to the people in Ninevah but Jonah fled on a ship to Tarsus. The Lord brought a great wind and a rough sea so the sailors threw Jonah overboard. God provided a whale to swallow Jonah and in my humble opinion Jonah was taken to “**Jonah 2:2 the realm of the dead**” and then God brought him up from the pit (**Jonah 2:6 restored his life**) and the whale coughed him up on shore so that he could complete God's appointed task.

**3) Apostle Paul** - In **Acts 6:8 – 8:1** we find that the Apostle Paul when he was Saul of Tarsus actually participated in the stoning to death of Stephen. Yet on the road to Damascus Saul was converted to Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul is credited with writing 16 books of the New Testament.

**4) Peter** - In **Luke 22:54-62** Peter denied he was a follower of Christ on 3 separate occasions. Yet Jesus told Peter in **Mathew 16:13-18**, “**And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter. And upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**” So even though Christ knew Peter would deny him 3 times he still built his church upon the truth that Peter knew. And Peter went on to be one of his greatest disciples.

**5) John Newton** – Before John Newton's acceptance of Christ, John was the captain of a slave ship. After John's conversion he became a minister and used the musical talent God gave him to write over 270 hymns including his famous “Amazing Grace”. What a transformation! From slave ship captain to a servant of the Lord and author of the greatest hymn of all time.

**So how about you? Have you accepted him as your Lord and Savior and made him the cornerstone of your life so he can effectively use you as his servant?**