

FORGIVENESS IS AN ACT OF PURE GRACE UPON  
THE PART OF GOD.

We are entirely without resources ; we are sold under sin, and we have no strength to do any single good thing whereby we can merit favor from God. On the contrary, every day and hour of our lives we add to the debt of sin. Yet whatever the debt of our sins may be, there is with God abounding grace to forgive it. Our Lord tells us of "two debtors ; the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty, and when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both ;" at the same time shewing us that the sinner, who has the greatest sense of sin, has the greatest sense of the grace which forgives sin.

Forgiveness being the act of God, and His own pure grace to sinners, we enquire—*What is the hindrance to the sinner receiving the knowledge of forgiveness of sins ?*

Pride of heart, which refuses to believe his real state, his utter sinfulness and helplessness, is a great hindrance. Pride sends man to the treadmill of his own doings ; and there Satan drives the helpless worker to despair, as the taskmasters lashed the Israelites of old, crying to them, when they could not make bricks without straw, "Ye be idle ! ye be idle !" Brickmaking did not bring the Israelites out of the house of bondage, neither will works bring a sinner out of his sins. Grace brought Israel into liberty, and grace frees the soul. Seeking to obtain forgiveness by our doings is spiritual slavery. God will not be in debt to any man. Listen to what He says :