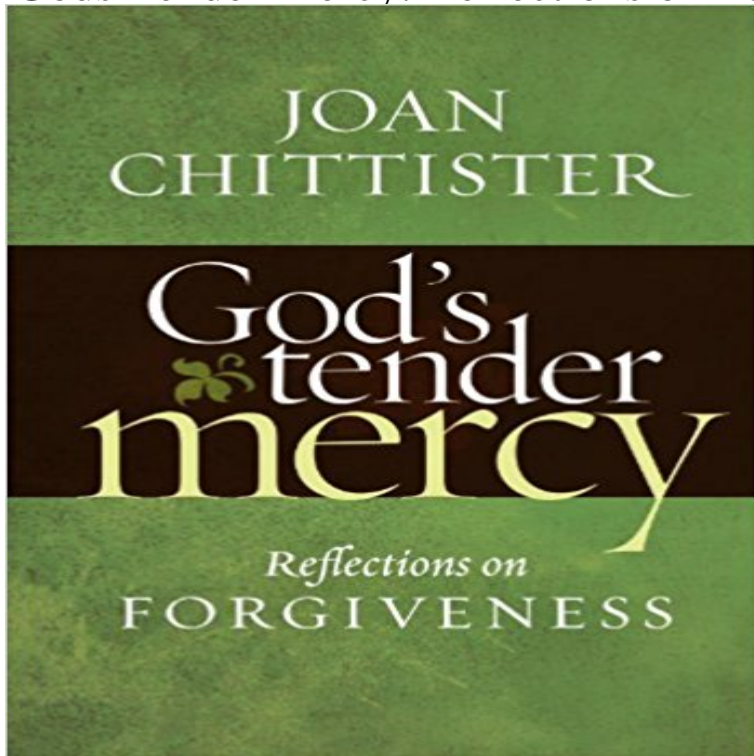


Gods Tender Mercy: Reflections on Forgiveness



Sister Joan Chittister is a bestselling author for a very good reason. She takes difficult and even mysterious concepts and breaks them open for us. Here she tackles the virtue of mercy and its connection to forgiveness. She feels strongly that most of us don't understand either mercy or forgiveness and don't offer them enough to others. She challenges us to stop judging, accusing, and criticizing those we label sinners and to see ourselves in their number. She invites us to be realistic about our own actions before we throw that first stone at another. This is spiritual reading at its very best. Sister Joan's insights invite all of us to seek holiness through receiving and then offering God's tender mercy and forgiveness to one another. In doing so we become holy. There is no other way.

REVIEWS FOR THIS BOOK

Joan is a prophet's voice telling us that when love breaks through in even one person, the effect for the world is immense. Weep and heal, she writes, willing us to find, through courageous self-reflection and forgiveness, the fullness of our humanity and in that, the kind of love that will lift this world. Paula D'Arcy, author of *Waking Up to This Day* is sure Sister Joan is tired of being called a prophet. Identifying her message as prophetic leaves the rest of us off the hook as just ordinary souls with considerably limited vision and ambition. This plain-speaking little book on forgiveness will not give the reader that satisfaction, however. She challenged me to reconsider the brazenness of God's mercy, the necessity of my guilt, and the value of continuing to cry until none of us has anything left to cry about. Alice Camille, co-author of *The Forgiveness Book* with Paul Boudreau, Joan Chittister, OSB, is one of the country's key visionary voices and spiritual leaders. A Benedictine Sister of Erie, PA, Sister Joan is an international lecturer on behalf of peace, human rights, women's issues, justice, and

contemporary culture. She is an award-winning author of 40 books and writes a weekly web column, From Where I Stand, for the National Catholic Reporter.

Currently she serves as co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a partner organization of the U.N., facilitating a worldwide network of women peace builders. She is also co-chair of the Network of Spiritual Progressives with Rabbi Michael Lerner and Cornel West. Sister Joan appeared with the Dalai Lama in 2007 at the First Emory (University) Summit of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding and at the conference, Seeds of Compassion, in 2008. In April 2005, her commentary from Rome on the month-long papal events was aired on CNN, the BBC and all national US media networks. On Easter Sunday 2006, she was a guest on Meet the Press with Tim Russert and in 2004, she was a guest on NOW with Bill Moyers. For twelve years Sister Joan was a (founding) member of the International Committee for the Peace Council, an interfaith group of world leaders working for peace. Her books include Welcome to the Wisdom of the World, a First Place Award winner from the Catholic Press Association, and The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully, a consistent best seller since its release in 2008. Joan has held positions of religious leadership among women in the Catholic Church for over 20 years, including serving as prioress of her Benedictine community. She holds a doctorate from Penn State University, was an elected-fellow of St. Edmunds College, Cambridge University, and is the founder and director of Benetvision: a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality located in Erie. (www.benetvision.org)

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