

Donna's Devotional
Pardoned

*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him,
since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25*

The word "pardon" comes to us from the Latin "perdonare", which means to give wholeheartedly. Pardons are granted by sovereign powers to accused persons, and they convey forgiveness for crimes and eradicate the penalty of those crimes.

In the United States, the ability to grant pardons from federal crimes lies in the hands of the President. The granting of a pardon is valid only if the President is in office at the time of the pardon. Many presidents, including George Washington, waited until their last day in office to grant a pardon. If they had waited one more day, the pardon would have been invalid. It is vital for the one being forgiven that the pardoner is the current holder of the right office.

Christ is the one and only one who holds the exact office needed for the crimes of humanity. Praise God, He is the only one that can grant my pardon and forgive my sins. Aren't you thankful that the one granting our pardon shed his blood as a payment for our sins? He has paid for our sin and all He requires of us is that we accept His sacrifice in order to receive His pardon. With our pardon comes forgiveness of sin and our crime is erased.

The words of the hymn *Arise My Soul Arise* expresses this thought:

*My God is reconciled;
His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for his child,
I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And Father, Abba Father, cry*

Christ died on our behalf, in our stead. His blood covers all who seek to be pardoned.