

Forgiveness - What it is / What it's not

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Sunday, May 27, 2018

Mark 11:22-26(NIV)- "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³ "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

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"Forgiveness."  
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1). Regardless of how loyal and loving we try to be-someone is going to let us down, lie to us, betray us or reject us. It's called life!

2). Abuse, misuse and betrayal hurts and often causes wounds-but the Lord desires to completely heal the wounds which we have suffered.

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3). Because of things that happen, some relationships get broken and can never be put back the same. Yet our heavenly Father can make all things new.

4). Extending forgiveness is necessary to remove the pain and the memory, of the hurtful event, from our life.

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5). For the Christian, extending forgiveness is not optional is it required, but it's not easy.

6). Forgiveness puts an end to the pain of the hurt:

The biblical word "forgive"- means to cancel, send away, remit, dismiss and release.

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*When I refuse to forgive, I allow the abuse, rejection and betrayal which occurred in my past to stay present in my life.*  
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7). *Forgiveness extended results in forgiveness received*
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Mark 11:24-25(NIV) - <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

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8). Forgiveness protects me from spiritual decay

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Heb. 12:14-15(NLT) Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

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9). Forgiving is not easy; forgiveness is a decision of our will. Once that decision is made it will take time for our feelings, our emotions, to catch up with our decision to forgive.

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Matt. 18:21-22(NLT) - <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” <sup>22</sup> “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

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Have you ever had someone do hurtful things to you (and they were aware of what they did to you) and yet never ask for forgiveness?

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What Forgiveness is Not:

1). Forgiveness is not approval or giving in

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2). Forgiveness is not forgetting

One of the errant myths regarding forgiveness is “if you forgive someone you will forget all about it...”

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Forgiveness is a decision of your will; forgetting is an exercise of your memory. Forgiveness can take place instantly; forgetting is a process.

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3). Forgiving is not justifying

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4). Forgiveness is not reconciliation

Forgiveness is complete by itself-reconciliation is wonderful, but it is entirely separate from forgiveness.

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5). Forgiveness is not trust

Forgiveness is a gift given; trust is a benefit earned.

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Forgiveness means we have come to terms with what has been done or said to us. But forgiveness does not mean you trust the person as you did before.

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6). Forgiveness is not getting even

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Forgiveness never comes our way, because punishment, revenge or justice goes their way.

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- What Forgiveness is:

1). Forgiveness is costly

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Eph. 4:32(NIV)- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you

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2). Forgiveness is acknowledging your hurt

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3). Forgiveness is showing mercy

The word “mercy” means compassion and forbearance toward an offender when its within your power to punish or condemn.

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4). Forgiveness is not keeping record of wrongs

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5). Forgiveness is living free from the moment of hurt or failure

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Philippians 3:13(NIV)- <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead

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6). Forgiveness is an attitude and a lifestyle

Forgiveness is a choice in which we think forgiveness and we act forgiveness.

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When forgiveness becomes a lifestyle- we don't have to weigh each situation and decide if we are going to forgive or not.