

Overcoming the desire to hold on to your unforgiveness.

Holding on to your bitterness that you have against that other person only hurts you. It's not hurting the other person; it's only making you grow bitter over time.

All of us at some point will need to deal with a forgiveness issue, whether we were hurt by parents, another person, family, a friend, or a spouse. Hurt by a business partner, a boss, or simply by life's system, or perhaps we feel we need to forgive God, Himself, for the hand that we were dealt in life. But know that God calls all of us to forgive, as He gave us the ultimate example of Jesus laying down His life and forgiving mankind on the cross, **Luke 23:34**.

What forgiveness is and what it is not.

- Forgiveness is not an emotion; it is a decision.
- Forgiveness should not be viewed as weakness.
- It's not pretending the offense did not happen, trying to justify the offense, or putting it somehow behind you.
- And it is certainly not about you becoming a doormat to whoever hurt you or succumbing to other future incidents.

Rather, forgiveness is about releasing your judgment on that person and handing that person and the offense that happened over to God. For vengeance is the Lord's, and He will repay (*in due season*), **Romans 12:19**.

We need to place that person and the offense that was caused in the Lord's capable hands. Thus, the bigger issue becomes: do we trust the Lord to right any wrong that may have happened, and do we trust Him to provide for us as Jehovah-Jireh (*my provider*), **Genesis 22:14**.

Forgiveness does not mean that you need to restore your relationship with that person, nor does it mean you need to trust that other person in that area again; trust takes time to build up, but forgiveness can be immediate.

When we forgive, it is to achieve our inner peace; however, we must also apply boundaries for our own protection.

Forgiveness is a reciprocating principle.

God is not being mad or taking retribution towards you when we read in scripture that if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive you, **Matthew 6:15**.

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he: **Proverbs 23:7**.

If we have unforgiveness in our heart, we are going to reap and be judged by the unforgiveness that we have sown.

Examples in the Old Testament, we see the same principle of God judging sin: He will not/cannot forgive sin; that is why Jesus came. However, He hears His people when they cry out to Him and is ready to forgive them.

And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for He *is* an holy God; He *is* a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins, **Joshua 24:19**.

If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land, **2nd Chronicles 7:14**.

For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee, **Psalms 86:5**.

Examples in the Gospels and the New Testament: Peter asked, how often shall I forgive? Jesus replied, (*a/ways*)!

²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

²² Jesus said unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven, Matthew 18:21-22.**

³ **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.** ⁴ **And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him, Luke 17:3-4.**

²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remember that thy brother has ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift, Matthew 5:23-24.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses, Mark 11:25.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Luke 6:37.

But that ye may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, I say unto (the sick of the palsy), Arise, and and go thy way into thine house. Mark 2:10-11.

Forgiving others is crucial, whereby unforgiveness may not keep us from entering heaven, for none of us are perfect or have arrived yet. However, if we hold on to unforgiveness in our heart, we are likewise maintaining a distancing of ourselves from God. Ask yourself, how can one walk in love if they harbor unforgiveness in their heart? As believers in God and Jesus, His Son, we are destined to learn forgiveness (*it is not an option*); we might as well learn it now while yet here on this earth.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, ^{1st} John 1:9.

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; Ephesians 1:7.

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. , Luke 23:34.



Forgiveness

will set you free

¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15.

When we hold on to unforgiveness, we are making a judgment as to what the other person did. Whereby, what they did might have been morally wrong, hurtful, and improper. We shall reap (*receive*), from God according to the same standard that we have judged others by.

¹ Judge not, that ye be not judged. ² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. ³ And why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but consider not the beam that is in thine own eye? Matthew 7:1-3.

This principle of reaping the same measure that you measure out to others, or even to yourself, is a universal kingdom principle. In **Matthew 7:2**, we see that it refers to judgment; in **Mark 4:24**, it refers to what you hear; and in **Luke 6:38**, it refers to how you give to others.

We also see this principle in the parable of the [servants entrusted with the master's money](#), **Matthew 25:14** & **Luke 19:12**. The servant who buried or hid the money was judged by the master, according to the servant's own words.

But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, **Romans 5:8**.

If God loved us and forgave us while we were yet sinners, the least we can do is to forgive our brothers.