

Never Miss An Opportunity To Forgive



Forgive (aphiemi)(af-ee-ay-mee) from Strong's 1. To send away, 2. Leave alone. I send away, I let go, I release, I permit to depart. An easy way to remember this is forgive means to give forth. "I give forth any retribution or judgment or any negative feelings for this offense to you Lord." We remember no more what was done.

Forgiveness vs. Reconciliation

We should always forgive.

We may not always reconcile

Heavenly Father I forgive _____ for
_____ in Jesus Name.

Satan will always try to dredge up the past and get you to stay in the bondage of unforgiveness. Do not let him do this. Once you have forgiven someone, remember that it is forgiven and tell the devil this.

Why should we forgive

1. Lessens our burdens-When we forgive someone of an offense, we are releasing any sense of retribution or judgment towards them. In most circumstances we are also giving up the memory of what they did. Think of heavy chains wrapped around your heart.

Unforgiveness taxes us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. It goes everywhere we go and is involved in everything that we do and everyone we interact with.

Leads to slander and idle words:

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it on the day of judgement.” (Matthew 12:36 NKJV).

Break Every Chain-Forgive!!!



2. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness & sin

Sin is the rot of the soul

Unfulfilled Expectation leads to

Offense leads to

Anger leads to

Bitterness leads to

Hate leads to

Sin(murder, retribution, destruction)

Stewing In Bitterness:

No Joy

No Peace

No Happiness

No Friends

No Love

It is a prison!!!

But What If I Am Angry?

Be Angry for the day.

“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26)

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice(Ephesians 4:31)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Don't keep a list of IOU's

How to combat Bitterness and Sin

Grace leads to

Forgiveness leads to

Love

God is love.

Matthew 10:18 “Freely you have received, freely give.”

The times that we are living in:

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.” (Matthew 24:10)

What would the world look like if there were more forgiveness.

3. Unforgiveness is a sin

Unforgiveness separates us from God

How is it a sin?

3A. Unforgiveness Is Telling God That He Is Wrong In Forgiving Others.

First, has God forgiven us

“No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord.” for they all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more.” (Jeremiah 31:34 NKJV)

“To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.” (Daniel 9:9 NKJV) “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” (Matthew 12:31 NKJV)

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7 NKJV)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 NKJV)

God has set the example for us by sacrificing His only begotten Son so that He can forgive us our sins through the blood of Christ, because without forgiveness there is no love and no life, only death and sorrow. God has forgiven you why can't you forgive others. We are quick to accept the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, yet we are slow to forgive those same sins in others.

3B- Unforgiveness Is Disobeying God's Command To Love One Another

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27 NKJV)

A new commandment I give to you that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another (John 13:34 NKJV)

Unforgiveness Is

Pride

Pride Is Not Of

God

How many times to forgive-how many offences there are

“Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” (Matthew 18:21-22 NKJV)

Forgiveness is an act of love that is applicable to both friends and enemies.

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44 NKJV)

Every time that we say “I forgive you” we are saying “I love you.”

4. The forgiveness of our sins depends on how we forgive those around us

The Lord's Prayer

“And forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12NKJV)

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15NKJV)

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s

master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the

debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he

owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (Matthew 18:23-35 NIV)

What does this mean?

-Not eternal but earthly. “For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)

-No closeness to God, no fellowship, no daily cleansing. Future correcting.

5. God can do many powerful things through forgiveness
- Heal broken hearts
 - Mend relationships
 - Bring others into the kingdom

Gary & Bonnie Witherall in Lebanon

6. Fight against the enemy, fight against his schemes of which unforgiveness is one.

“Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.” (2 Corinthians 2:10-11NKJV)

7. Self

God will never leave you nor forsake you. He knows what you have done and He still loves you, and He still forgives you.

“Heavenly Father, please forgive me in Jesus’ Name for not forgiving myself.”

“Heavenly Father, in Jesus’ Name I forgive myself for _____”

Conclusion

- Be quick to forgive
- Forgive even without an apology
- Forgive multiple times
- I forgive you = I love you
- God is love, the devil is unforgiveness
- Forgive others & forgive yourself as
God has forgiven you
- Never miss an opportunity to forgive