

GOD'S GUIDANCE



FORGIVENESS



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FORGIVENESS

*To forgive, is to set a prisoner free and
discover that the prisoner was you.*

*Lewis B. Smedes
Author*

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“In an ideal world, everyone would always get along and our feelings would never get hurt. Unfortunately, we live in a world that sin has entered so sometimes we’re not going to get along with others and our feelings will sometimes get hurt by others. This is when forgiveness comes in to play. The Bible speaks a good deal not only about our need to forgive others, but also about our need to be forgiven by God when we sin against him.”

*There are 11 verses on what the Bible has to say about
forgiveness.*

Ephesians 4:32

Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

- Forgiveness is not easy to give, however; when you think about what God has done for us, and God has forgiven us for, we have no excuse not to forgive one another.

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰But: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. ²¹Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good

What does it say to us?

12:18 *It is not always possible, because sometimes the world insists on war.*

12:19 *Vengeance, which is simply the proper penalty for evil, is not wrong, but it is God's duty not ours, unless we are governing authorities with the duty to punish crime. See chapter 13. 12:19*

Deuteronomy 32:35

12:20 *Proverbs 25:21-22. This metaphor (heap burning coals on his head) could refer to causing a feeling of shame that comes on a person when one receives good in return for the harm done to someone else. Or it might refer to the judgment God brings on someone. The latter is the sense of burning coals in 2 Samuel 22:9; Job 41:21; and Psalm 140:10; and this sense would also correspond to verse 19, where believers are told to make room for God to do the avenging*

- When someone does us wrong, the easy thing to do, is to retaliate. God says to us, instead live at peace with others and repay evil with good. Repeating someone, who has done you wrong, with kindness, is usually going to drive them crazy. They then realize they no longer have a hold on you as they would like to.

1 Chronicles 21:8

⁸David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Please forgive the guilt of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.

What does it say to us?

21:8 *There is nothing inherently wrong with a census. See the book of Numbers. The sin must have been in the pride that motivated the census or perhaps failure to provide the appropriate ransom (Exodus 30:12)*

- David had sinned against God, and David knew that it was essential that he ask God to forgive him. It is important that we ask God for forgiveness when we mess up and look at ourselves, in our hearts, so, can change!

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴Indeed if you forgive people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive people their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

What does it say to us?

6:15 *Refusing to forgive reveals a lack of faith, and God's forgiveness is received only through faith. We do not earn forgiveness by forgiving, but it is possible to drive faith from our heart and to forfeit God's forgiveness by refusing to forgive. See the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-35.*

- This verse hits at the core. If we cannot forgive those around us, how do we expect God to forgive us? We need to be Christ-like and extend to others the same forgiveness we look to God for.

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?"

²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times.

What does it say to us?

18:22 *Or seventy times seven. Since the Greek is exactly the same as the Greek Septuagint translation of Genesis 4:24, it seems likely that seventy-seven is what is meant here (because the Hebrew in Genesis 4:24 means seventy-seven). Yet the real point is not the difference between seventy-seven or seventy times seven, but that we should not count or keep track.*

- Jesus is saying that we should forgive others as many times as needed. We don't have to keep putting ourselves in situations where we will most likely get hurt, but we need to forgive others, as many times as needed.

John 8:7-8

⁷But when they kept on asking him for an answer, he stood up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote on the ground.

- Who are we to judge and withhold forgiveness when we are not perfect ourselves? Before we cast stones at others, we need to examine ourselves.

John 8:10-11

¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹"No one, Lord," she answered. Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

What does it say to us?

8:11 Although Jesus did not condemn her, he also clearly did not condone the sin or any continuing in sin. He forgave her and called on her to leave the sin behind. Repentant believers will strive to avoid sin. Even though we often fall, we must not continue to sin on deliberately (Romans 7:14-25).

- Here, Jesus gives us an important lesson. When we're forgiven, it should lead to a change in our lives. We can't ask forgiveness, for something we've done and then go back to living like before and keep repeating the infraction. If we do that, our apology is just empty words.

Psalms 103:11-12

¹¹Yes, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so powerful is his mercy toward those who fear him. ¹²As distant as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our rebellious acts from us.

What does it say to us?

103:11-12 Who can measure the distance of the east from the west? Who can measure the height of the sky? God's mercy and forgiveness cannot be measured. God's love will never come to an end. God's supply of forgiveness will never run out.

- When we ask God for forgiveness, He forgives us and removes our sins far away from us.

Hebrews 10:17

¹⁷Then he adds: And I will not remember their sins and their lawlessness any longer

- God remembers our sins no more, when He forgives us. Going by His example, we shouldn't hold past mistakes that have been forgiven against others.

Colossians 3:13

¹³Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you.

- People are going to make mistakes and when they do, we should be willing to forgive them because God forgives us when we mess up as well.

Mark 11:25-26

²⁵Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. ²⁶But if you do not forgive, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.

- *Forgiveness is not always an easy task, but the Bible makes it clear that it is an essential part of Christian life. If we expect God to forgive us if our sins, shouldn't we extend that same forgiveness to others? When you're struggling with any aspect of your life, it will help you to turn Scripture in prayer and ask God to change your heart and attitude towards the person you need to forgive. Withholding forgiveness is going against what God says to do and gives Satan a foothold in your life.*
- ***Is there someone you need to forgive in your life?***
- *Maybe they haven't asked you for forgiveness or they may not even know that they have hurt you. Pray from your heart and attitude toward the person to change and forgive them. You'll find that your life will be much happier without the weight of anger and a grudge on your shoulders.*

Pray To The Lord.

For forgiving others.

Lord, I want to forgive others, but there seems to be a sort of blockage that is causing me to hold fast to my anger and hurt. Please Father God, in Your goodness and grace, would You please help me to forgive fully, freely, and forever so that I may be released from this sharp pain of unforgiveness, which seems to be holding my heart in an icy, iron grip.

-Amen-

Asking God to forgive us.

Wash me I pray, in the purifying blood of Jesus. Cleanse me from all my sins. Fill my heart with righteous thoughts and clean desires, for I no longer want to wallow in the cesspit of sin that has for so long separated me from You. Thank You, Lord, that You have promised that all who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior will have their sins forgiven forever. Praise You Lord, for Your grace and mercy on me, a sinner saved by grace. In Jesus' name I pray. -Amen-

Children Pray to the Lord.

Asking God for forgiveness.

Dear Jesus, please forgive me for disobeying and help me to listen to my parents next time and to do what they tell me to do. Thank You that even when I am naughty You still love me, even though I know that it makes You very sad, when I don't do as I am told to do. -Amen-

Forgiven Other's.

Lord, I want to forgive others, but there seems to be a sort of blockage that is causing me to hold fast to my anger and hurt. Please Father God, in Your goodness and grace, would You please help me to forgive fully, freely and forever so that I may be released from this sharp pain of unforgiveness, which seems to be holding my heart in an icy, iron grip.

-Amen-

Allow the healing promises of Jesus, heard in this worship Hymn below, to bring you peace today and every day.

Hymn

I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS

¹ I lay my sins on Jesus
the spotless Lamb of God;
he bears them all and frees
us from the accursed load:
I bring my guilt to Jesus,
to wash my crimson stains
white in his blood most
precious, 'til not a spot
remains.

² I lay my wants on Jesus;
all fullness dwells in him;
he heals all my diseases,
he doth my soul redeem:
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
my burdens and my cares;
he from them all releases,
he all my sorrows shares.

³ I rest my soul on Jesus,
this weary soul of mine;
his right hand me embraces,
I on his breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
like fragrance on the breezes
his name abroad is poured.

⁴ I long to be like Jesus,
meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus,
the Father's holy child:
I long to be with Jesus
amid the heav'nly throng,
to sing with saints his
praises,
to learn the angels' song.

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