



The Power of Forgiveness

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Matthew 6:12-15 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors...14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

As we start the series on forgiveness, I want us to have the proper definition of the word forgive.

The word forgive is taken from the Greek word “Aphiemi” which means “to send forth or away, let go from oneself”.

The word debts or debtors is from the Greek word “opheílōma”; to owe. A debt that is owed and strictly due. Also, an offense, a trespass, or a sin that requires restitution or reimbursement.

We often use the phrase that a person harbors unforgiveness in their heart, which means they have not moved on or let go of the wrong that was done to them by someone else.

We need to remember that forgiving others and receiving forgiveness is as much about our own benefit and healing as it is about offering grace to those who have wronged us.

We must be careful that we do not wish bad on those who have wronged us. For if we do, we may be setting ourselves up for failure. **Luke 6:38 ...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."**

Matthew 7:2 (NLT) For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

Forgiving others is one way you can do Good to others and yourself. **Luke 6:27-29 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.**

Embracing forgiveness empowers you to uplift others. This strength comes from your commitment to God, enabling you to offer genuine kindness and support that reflects true compassion.

In Matthew 6:12-15, Jesus urges us to forgive others for the debts they owe us: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." This shows how intertwined our own forgiveness is with that of others.



The concept of reciprocity suggests that what you do for others, God will do for you in return.

It states in **Ephesians 6:8**, "**Knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.**" This verse highlights that our willingness to show compassion and grace to others will be rewarded, implying that our good deeds toward others will be reflected back to us by God in some form.

This verse shows that there is no partiality, and anyone can receive this blessing from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Someone may ask if the bible says that I'm forgiven of my past, present, and future sins, then why do I still have to ask God for forgiveness?

My first answer would be because God tells us to, and that should be enough, but the scripture does give more clarity.

Second, let's see what the Bible says. **Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)** **You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.**

After His finished work for our salvation, all our sins—past, present, and future—are forgiven. This forgiveness is based on our belief in Jesus as the Son of God, who died and rose again.

As New Testament believers, this means we are no longer impacted by **Matthew 6:12-15** regarding eternal existence or our relationship (*Not fellowship but relationship*) with the Father.

All who are saved have had their sins forgiven, remitted, and removed because of the completed work of Jesus Christ, which assures us of our right standing with God and our place in heaven.

Sin does not alter your position in heaven, as that is secured by grace through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our righteousness is secured by the Father's Love, Grace, and Jesus' Sacrifice, not by our actions.

Our sins and unforgiveness no longer affect our Spirit, which is sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14 **In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**



The only thing that can harm our spirit man is our rejection of the Holy Spirit. When we reject the Holy Spirit, we also reject the one who seals us from the consequences of our sins, transgressions, and iniquities. Without this protection, there is nothing to prevent the destructive effects of sin—which ultimately lead to death—from taking their course.

Born-Again Believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit after believing in Jesus Christ. This sealing signifies God's ownership, protection, and guarantee of our salvation and inheritance. The Holy Spirit Himself acts as the seal, not merely an action performed by the Spirit.

Sin does not impact your heavenly position, but (*to answer the previous question*), it can influence the outcomes of our earthly walk and our fellowship with God.

However, the principle of the scripture that Jesus spoke in **Matthew 6:12-15** can significantly impact our soul and physical health.

We are Commanded to Forgive!

It's important to know that forgiving others is a command from God rather than just a suggestion. This means we don't have to wait until we feel ready to forgive; we can act out of obedience to God's Word.

Taking that first step to forgive someone or to seek forgiveness can be truly transformative. It helps us release the heaviness of unforgiveness in our hearts, allowing Joy, peace, and healing to be restored.

So, unforgiveness does not affect our justification (our right-standing with God), but it can affect our sanctification (our spiritual growth and the renewing of our minds).

The motive for our forgiveness before the finished works of Jesus Christ had to be based on works of the law because mankind was judged by the law and not by the finished works of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the penalty of unforgiveness would affect how God would or would not forgive and bless the individual.

The Born-Again Believer's Motive for Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Our motivation for forgiving others stems from a deep appreciation for the boundless forgiveness that Jesus Christ has extended to us.

By letting go of grudges and embracing forgiveness, we reflect the love and grace we have received, demonstrating the transformative power of Christ's mercy in our lives and to others.