

## Teaching: “The Power of Forgiveness”

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Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again, Luke 6:37-8.

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What forgiveness is:

- is primarily for the sake of the person asking for it.
- Releases you from carrying around your bitterness, (your “rightful-wrong”), about the situation, allowing you to then dwell in peace, (the finished work of Christ).

What forgiveness is not:

- it is not a “get out of jail free card” for the offender.
- it does not turn you into a walking doormat.

How to achieve forgiveness:

- God is the Forgiver.  
Who can forgive sins, but God alone, Luke 5:21, Mark 2:7.
- Three possible areas to ask for forgiveness:
  1. Vertically, ask the Lord to forgive you – even if you are unsure of the nature of the offence.
  2. Inwardly, forgive yourself – the only perfect Man we crucified 2,000 years ago.
  3. If God impresses it on your heart, ask your offender for forgiveness.

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Once we forgive, we are able to enjoy His peace

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid, John 14:27.

Forgiveness: it's a kingdom requirement.

- ✦ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9.
- ✦ Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . . If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses, Matthew 6:11-12, 14-15.
- ✦ Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered, Romans 4:7.
- ✦ In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; Ephesians 1:7.
- ✦ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, has He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Colossians 2:13.