

## **FINDING FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS**

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We must deal with our own \_\_\_\_\_ trauma...

Forgiveness and the Bible...

- Concept of forgiveness appears roughly \_\_\_\_\_ times in the Bible.

**Ephesians 4:31-32:** *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **as God in Christ forgave you.***

**Colossians 3:13:** *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

**Rationale for forgiveness?** *As the \_\_\_\_\_ forgave you.*

Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_ street...

First, it's the forgiveness God gives each of us for the \_\_\_\_\_ we've \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 John 1:9:** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness., and,*

**Ephesians 1:7:** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...*

Second, it's the forgiveness we are called to give those who've \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mark 11:25:** *And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, **so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.***

**Matthew 6:14-15:** *For if you forgive others their trespasses, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you**, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***

How often are we called on by God to forgive someone? \_\_\_\_\_ times!

**Matthew 18:21-22:** *Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Or, until the anger is gone!*

We need to surrender to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in \_\_\_\_\_.

Who is to initiate the process?

- If it's a fellow believer...

**Matthew 18:15,** *“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.*

What if it's still unresolved?

**Matthew 18:16-17,** *But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.<sup>[a]</sup> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

What if I'm still angry after forgiveness happens? Do I need to forgive again?

**Matthew 18:21-22,** *Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.*

What if the hurt came from someone who is not a believer in Christ? Jesus is our model...

**Luke 23:32-34,** *Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”<sup>[a]</sup> And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

- The quicker we can embrace the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in all things, the quicker we will be able to overcome the abuse, trauma, and challenges others have brought to our lives.
- It means God is \_\_\_\_\_ of all aspects of our lives...
- We're reminded that He is the great \_\_\_\_\_ of His children.

**Romans 12:9**, *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Remember that God told us that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ in this life!

**John 15:20a**, *Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.*

God's not un-\_\_\_\_\_ by our suffering.

Take the \_\_\_\_\_ approach.

One of the great results of forgiveness is it releases us from our own \_\_\_\_\_-imposed \_\_\_\_\_.

And, we must never forget what Jesus said in **John 10:10**: *I have come that you might have life, and life to the full!*