

God will cause me to forgive all – if I don't I'm living in darkness

Ps 133:1 How good and how pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

2 -3 It is like...precious oil...It is like...dew...descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing — Life forevermore.

When can the Father bring revival, life forevermore, to a Church? When those who actually belong to Him are living together in absolute unity, of one Spirit and of one will. Ask the Father if there is complete unity at Living Stones Bible Church. If He says no, ask Him what the primary causes are; He may answer, unforgiveness, envy and strife.

John 20:21 **Jesus said to them "Peace to you! Just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you (and remember, He forgave those who crucified Him)."**

22 **And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.**

23 AMP **Now having received the Holy Spirit, and being led and directed by Him, if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained.**

This authority to forgive sins, when we are under the authority of the Holy Spirit, Is not expressly limited to sins committed against us. Christ forgave sins not committed directly against Him, as did the Apostle Paul, in Christ (2 Co 2:10) so can we when we're in Christ.

Someone says: Forgiving others is not something I encounter much or have trouble with

Really – before reaching your car today you may well encounter several opportunities to forgive. You may greet someone and they may barely acknowledge you or totally ignore you, which of these two paths will you then choose to walk down?

Someone doesn't treat me with the respect I, in my human nature, think I deserve:

Who do they think they are ignoring me
It's not right – I'm important too
They've hurt my feelings
I'm offended
They don't deserve to be forgiven
I'm in sin

Oh well, they may be having a tough day
Is there anything I could do to help them?
I totally forgive them from my heart
Heavenly Father can you use me to help?
Father, how can I pray for them?
I'm still free and walking in God's love

Deut 30:19 (God) **I have set before you life (forgiveness) and death (unforgiveness), blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live;**
Can God command a blessing of re-living to a Church still infected by heart unforgiveness?

We may think we've forgiven a person's offence, but if it's just in our heads and not from our hearts, by faith, and in Christ, we'll find we constantly remember it, and bring it up.

How frequently must I forgive the same person and how often for the same thing?

Matt 6:11-12 **Give us this day our daily bread** (so this is meant as a daily prayer).

And forgive us our sins, As we forgive those who sin against us.

Matt 18:21-22 **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, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven (and if I start counting sins I'm in unforgiveness, because real forgiveness includes choosing to not remember them ever).

What does my willingness to forgive others not include? That I approve or they deserve it

Since God is willing to forgive my sins, for Christ's sake (Eph. 4:32), not because I deserve it, and while at the same time not condoning or approving of my sins. Then clearly my willingness to forgive others, and behave like a son or daughter of God, doesn't include condoning their sins, nor signify that they deserve forgiveness, either.

What are the consequences of my not forgiving, from my heart, everyone of everything

Matt 6:15 **But if you do not forgive people their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins.** (I'm now unforgiven by God, just think about it).

Matt 18:33-35 **Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors...**

So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses (meaning I will be continually subject to the tormenting thoughts of evil spirits).

2 Cor 2:10-11 **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 person (KJV) in the presence of Christ** (this is how we are to forgive)

So that Satan doesn't get an advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his thoughts. (Un-forgiveness puts me in Satan's hands)

Prov 26:20 **Where there is no wood , the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.** (My gossiping about the wrongs of others is the fuel that perpetuates strife and therefore, God says, every evil work).

Unforgiveness can de-rail the course of my life's work – AB Simpson's devotional Oct. 7

Heb 12:15 **...Lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;** un-forgiveness leads to bitterness and bitterness spreads itself and contaminates other Christians.

From RT Kendall's book Total Forgiveness. "My unforgiveness of another person means I'm living in darkness, no matter how much religious activity I may still be engaged in, it also means I'm not very grateful for God's forgiveness of my own sins".

If I have a religious background, attending meetings but without an intimate spiritual relationship with God, I likely became influenced by a religious spirit. Religious spirits promote unforgiveness. I may then try so hard to be spiritual but my works will be mostly devoid of God's life. My acute need is to be permanently controlled by the Holy Spirit, ruling my spirit, so that I can genuinely forgive and be freed from that evil religious spirit.

How can God cause me to forgive when all of my human nature wants to bear a grudge

1. By being truly willing for God to make me willing to forgive everyone of everything

John 7:17 **If anyone is willing to do His (God's) will** (even those willing to be made willing by God – FB Meyer), **he will know...** how to forgive

2. By my recognizing the basis for all forgiveness, my own and those who sin against me

1 Peter 2:24 (Jesus) **who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,...**

3. By my acknowledging my need for the Holy Spirit – because when I was born again the desire to forgive others entered me, but when I receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the power of God to forgive others, and to not remember their sin, now resides in me:

John 20:23 **Now having received the Holy Spirit...if you forgive ...anyone...**

4. By allowing God to increasingly impart to me the nature of Christ – Christ's nature is always to forgive. This nature is imparted to me through God's words entering my heart

2 Peter 1:4 **By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises** (God's words): **that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature** (that is, Christ's own nature to forgive)...

Gal 2:20 **I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but** (forgiving) **Christ** (by His living words and by His Holy Spirit) **lives in me;**

5. By walking in love, living in God who is love, which takes no account of wrongs suffered

1 Cor 13:5 AMP **Love ... Takes no account of the evil done to it...a suffered wrong.**

Prov 19:11 **...And their (a Christian's) glory is to overlook a transgression .**

What is the principal cause of unforgiveness – Pride, unbelief of the truth, wicked spirits

Prov 13:10 **Only by pride** (having my way) **comes contention** (disagreements, and ill will to another) **but with the well advised is wisdom** (doing God's will)

Heb 3:19 **So we see that they could not enter in** (into God's rest, His presence, where there is always granting of forgiveness) **because of unbelief.**

2 Cor 2:10-11 **...I forgive...so that Satan doesn't get an advantage over me...**

Forgiveness does not require the other person to be sorry or to improve their ways

Rom 12:21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good** (forgive).

Matt 5:7 **Blessed are the merciful** (who forgive), **For they shall obtain mercy.**

Forgiving others requires choosing to not remember what they did, as God has with me

Heb 8:12 **And I will be merciful to them in their wrongdoings, and I will**
(choose to) **remember their sins no more.** (in and by Him, I can too)

A serious trap we can fall into, is when we have from our hearts genuinely forgiven someone, but we then choose to remember, or Satan reminds us of, what they did. If we let this thought enter our hearts we are back in unforgiveness again, while falsely assuming that we are in forgiveness. Now we are separated from God while being totally blind to what actually caused it. This very deceptive trap has been the ruination of some.

Eph 5:17 **Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

We forgive ourselves to the degree we believe that God has forgiven us – RT Kendall

1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous** (for Christ's sake) **to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Could it be also, that we forgive others to the same degree that our hearts truly believe that we are forgiven by God, solely on the basis of Christ having been judged for them?

Eph 4:32 **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just the same as God for Christ's sake forgave you.**

Unless and until I am mastered by one or more of these truths, which are foundational to the life of a Christian, I will continue to be easily offended and withhold forgiveness. By such a choice I will walk in darkness, my fellowship with God will be severed and any spiritual growth into a deeper life in Christ, halted. My spiritual enemies will now have an advantage over me and will torment me with all manner of troubling thoughts against which I will have no defense. None of this will have been the will of My Father for me, and none of this need ever happen to me – if I will, forsake pride and, drawing on God's own nature, His word and Spirit, always available to me, just do the right thing - and forgive.

Eph 5:17-18 **Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not be under the influence of wine, but be filled with, under the influence of the Holy Spirit** (who causes you to obey God and forgive)

Eph 4:2-3 **In all humility, meekness, with longsuffering, putting up with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Holy Spirit as bound together in God's peace** (so that God can command His blessing of revival).