

Forgiveness – What is that?

I forgive you, how many times have you heard someone say that to you? Better yet how many times have you said that phrase to someone else? Either way forgiveness seems in short supply. So, I ask you what does it mean to forgive someone and what does it mean to be forgiven?

First you need forgiveness to give forgiveness. Think of the bondage this world has shackled you with. What are you bound by; fear, self-worth, drugs, regret, pornography, hatred, or maybe it's something completely different. People search the world over trying to find freedom from the things that seem to drag their lives down into the muck and drudgery. John 10:10 says: *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* That abundant life starts with forgiveness through Jesus Christ. No matter what has a grip on your life, freedom from it can only come when you ask Jesus to be your personal savior. Once you do that you are completely forgiven. 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* Our relationship with God is based on FAITH, faith that God will do what He has said He would. When you accept Christ as your savior your slate is wiped clean and God does not see your life before Christ, but He sees you through Jesus' eyes. Psalms 103:12 *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.* That is what forgiveness looks like.

Once you are forgiven, how do you forgive others? I struggle with this and I know it is a big struggle with others as well. Being hurt by someone sticks with you a long time. Right now, if I asked you to think of a specific incident where someone hurt you, I am sure an incident pops into your head. Since we, unlike God, can't stop remembering past transgressions we have to forgive others continually. We have to apply how God forgives us to how we forgive others. That means when someone seeks genuine forgiveness from us, we should literally say WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? How important is it that we forgive others? Matthew 6:15 *But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.* Wow, that just changed the way we should look at forgiving others. This doesn't mean if we don't forgive someone God won't forgive us, but it does mean that our relationship with God will be hindered here on earth. God tied both, forgiveness and forgiving others, together so we can have a stronger relationship with Him and so others can see what God's forgiveness looks like through us.

I forgive you, three simple words with a complicated meaning. Remember God is ready to forgive you and you should be willing to forgive others.

Listen to Matthew West song [Forgiveness](#) and take a step closer to giving and receiving FORGIVENESS!

God Bless,

Ronnie

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