

Giv07 - **Living in Divine Forgiveness - Eph 4:32**

We're in the **7th Msg** - in our **Give Up Series**

**We started** last week - **looking** at our **Critical NEED**

to **GIVE OVER to God** What we

**Can't FIX - Can't HANDLE - & Can't CONTROL**

**There's** a **LOT** we have to **Learn** to **GIVE OVER** to God

But **one** of the **HARDEST things** - For **SO MANY Christians**  
to **give over** to God - is the **Sin of UNFORGIVENESS**

So we **started 1st wk** - **looking** at God's **DIVINE FORGIVENESS**

In **HOSEA** - we saw an **incredible PICTURE**

of What **God's Divine Forgiveness** - **LOOKS Like**

& in **MAT 18** we **found out** - We are **absolutely CALLED**  
to **FORGIVE** - **AT** this **SAME LEVEL**

**AND** we saw - that **REFUSING to Forgive**  
**Brings - TORTURE** into **our lives**

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Many of us **HAVE** - or **ARE** Experiencing **that TORTURE**

& **God wants** to **HEAL** you - & **FREE** you  
**From** the **BONDAGE of Unforgiveness**

**So today** - I want to give you a **STEP-BY-STEP Process** to  
**LIVING IN DIVINE FORGIVENESS**

**Let's Pray**

**Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)**

**32 . . . [We must] forgive one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven [us].**

**& MATTHEW 6 - MARK 11 - & LUKE 6 – ALL say Clearly →**

**That Our “RIGHT Relationship” with God  
is directly CONDITIONED upon Our Forgiveness of others**

**UNFORGIVENESS is a RELATIONAL SIN  
That Directly IMPACTS our Relationship with God**

**& many, many Christians - have NEVER come to GRIPS  
with this Critical Truth**

**& so we have all this DESTRUCTION of Unforgiveness  
Occurring in our Lives - And in the Church**

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**BUT - even IF we DO come to grips with this truth  
we're still left w/ the question**

**HOW can we LIVE in Divine Forgiveness**

**HOW can we forgive – in the Same Proportion God has Forgiven us**

**HOW can we end the torture that Un-Forgiveness Brings**

**HOW can we make our Relationship w/ God Right  
BY Forgiving others - AS God Commands us to?**

**Honestly - - By GIVING UP, GIVING IN, & GIVING OVER**

**By Giving UP our PRIDE**

**Giving IN to the Lordship of Jesus Christ**

**Giving OVER what we can't FIX - HANDLE - or CONTROL**

**& today we want to deal with HOW Can we begin to GIVE OVER  
our Unforgiveness - & PUT ON - God's Divine Forgiveness**

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**So - FIRST - We need to KNOW**

**Divine Forgiveness is NOT Approving of - or Excusing Sin**

It's **NOT Denying** the **offense**

It's **NOT pretending** we're **not hurt**

**Divine Forgiveness is being fully aware of the offense**

& **STILL** - making a **choice (outside your feelings)** to;

1) **Release** that person from **the debt** -

2) **Refuse** to **punish** them

3) **Keep No Record** of the **wrong**

**THAT** – is how **God**, in Christ, has **Forgiven you** –

& **THAT** is **how** we are **CALLED** to **Divinely Forgive**

**Divine Forgiveness Acknowledges the wrong done (incldg pain)**

& Still **CHOOSES to FORGIVE - COMPLETELY**

You may **think it's impossible** to **Forgive** at that level -

But it's **only Impossible** in your **Own Strength** !

**& Divine Forgiveness does NOT EXIST in your Own Strength**

**Divine Forgiveness is a Supernatural GIFT**

That **God POURS** into our **Hearts**

**Divine Forgiveness is GOD'S NATURE - Poured into US**

**Rom 5:5 says**

***5 . . . the [Agape] love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.***

**All steps to *Divine Forgiveness* – are Supernatural**

**& they all start with Crucifying our Self-Will,  
& seeking God's Will - Wholly & Completely**

**Earnestly Praying - God would pour a FLOOD  
of His Agape Love - into our unforgiving hearts**

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**Living in Divine Forgiveness is a Supernatural PROCESS**

**It's the Supernatural Process of God Transforming our lives  
into the IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST – (2Cor 3:18)**

**So - Here's the Best I could lay it out - in 5 Easy Steps  
All Starting with the Same Letter - to help you remember**

### **5 Steps to Living in Divine Forgiveness**

- 1) RECOGNIZE – Unforgiveness in your heart (*feel the pain*)**
  - 2) RECEIVE – God's Command to Forgive (*by faith alone*)**
  - 3) REPENT – Of your Sin (*with Godly sorrow*)**
  - 4) REPLACE – Your hard heart with God's heart (*be transformed*)**
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_ -**
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## **#1) Recognize Unforgiveness in your heart - (feel the pain)**

As we **said last week** -

We **must FIRST** - *Feel the Pain of Unforgiveness*

We **must RECOGNIZE** the **damage & destruction**  
**Un-Forgiveness** is **doing** - in **our lives**

& **SO OFTEN** - **WHEN** we are **IN IT** - We **CAN'T See it**  
- **Unforgiveness BLINDS** us

**& so** - we must **constantly pray** with **King David** in

### **Psalm 139:23–24 (ESV)**

***23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!***

***24 And see if there be any grievous (wicked) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!***

**if** you will **HONESTLY Seek God** in this area –

**He** will **show you** the “**SIGNS**” of **Un-Forgiveness** in your life

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### **TURN over to COL Ch 3**

In **Vs's 12 & 13** is **what it looks like** when we are “**Putting On**”  
(Being Clothed With) **God's Divine Forgiveness**

**(follow me in your Bible) - God says to Put ON:**

(v.12) **Compassionate Hearts** - **Kindness** - **Humility**  
**Meekness** - **Patience** - **Bearing With** one another

& (v.13) Be **Forgiving** each other **As the Lord** has **Forgiven Us**

**BUT** - We're **looking for SIGNS** that we have **NOT FORGIVEN**  
... & **those** are **just above** - in the "**Put Off**" section

**Look in Colossians 3:8 (ESV)**

**8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander . . .**

**These** are **SOME** of the **SIGNS** that **UNFORGIVENESS**  
has **got you** in a **Torture Chamber**

**Let me give the Definitions here:**

**Anger** - *state of mind marked by rage & pain*

**Wrath** - *outburst of retaliation*

**Malice** - *desire to see another suffer*

**Slander** - *words that harm a person*

**Most Christians** who are **Controlled** by this **SIN**  
**Won't ADMIT** these **SIGNS of Destruction** are in **their lives**

**But** - if you **will First** - **RECOGNIZE these SIGNS**  
You'll **SEE** the **Sin of Unforgiveness** in your heart

& **if** you **need** more **convincing** - Just **Listen** very **CLOSELY**  
to **the Words coming OUT of your MOUTH**

**Because Jesus said in Matthew 12:34 (esv)**  
**34 . . . For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

**Listen to the Words that are coming out of your mouth** –  
because **Un-Forgiveness** is **ALWAYS** revealed in your **Tongue**

& **AS LONG** as it's **THERE**  
It's **going** to be **constantly DAMAGING** your **LIFE**

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## **VIDEO ONLY: 5 Steps to Living in Divine Forgiveness**

- 1) **RECOGNIZE** – Unforgiveness in your heart (*feel the pain*)
- 2) **RECEIVE** – God’s Command to Forgive (*by faith alone*)
- 3) **REPENT** – Of your Sin (*with Godly sorrow*)
- 4) **REPLACE** – Your hard heart with God’s heart (*be transformed*)
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ -

**#1) We must Recognize Un-Forgiveness in our Heart** (*feel the pain*)

**#2) We must Receive God’s Command to Forgive** (*by faith alone*)

There is **nothing here** about “**Feelings**” - -

**OBEDIENCE** to God is about - “**Faith and Action**”

### **Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**

***6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.***

**It’s NOT Responding to God in Faith - to say;**

I **DON’T FEEL** Like it

It’s **TOO HARD**

I **DON’T WANT** to

As **Heb 11:6** says - it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to **PLEASE God**  
or **even DRAW NEAR** to God - **LIKE THAT**

**Faith** is the **Opposite** of **Feeling** – & **God** is Waiting for you to say

I **Receive** your **Command** - to **Forgive** just as I’ve been forgiven

I **Believe** your **Word** - & I **Surrender** my own **Self-Will (my Flesh)**  
& I **Receive** Your command - **BY FAITH**

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In this area of Divine Forgiveness - We often have to say with the MAN in MARK Ch 9 - "I Believe, Help My Unbelief"

In MARK 9 - As Jesus came down from the Mt of Transfiguration A father brought his Son who was Demon Possessed

& this father says to Jesus in Mark 9:22-24 (NLT)

22 . . . Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."

(Jesus Responds) 23 "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked.

"Anything is possible if a person believes."

24 The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

This APPLIES to YOU - AND to the Sin of Unforgiveness that is destroying your life

The Father admitted the SHORTCOMING of His FAITH

But with what LITTLE FAITH he Had - He said to Jesus - "I BELIEVE, Help me Overcome my UNBELIEF"

& Jesus HEALED his SON - right at that moment

& THAT - is ALL God is looking for from YOU

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If You will Truly RECEIVE God's command to Forgive - BY Faith

You will be ON your WAY - to experiencing the Supernatural Transformation of Divine Forgiveness

You Must Receive God's Command to Forgive (*by Faith Alone*)

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**#1) We must Recognize Un-Forgiveness in our Heart** (*feel the pain*)

**#2) We must Receive God’s Command to Forgive** (*by faith alone*)

**#3) We must Repent of our Sin** (*with Godly Sorrow*)

**Un-Forgiveness** is a **sin that separates you** from **God**

& **gives the Devil a wide-open door** to **wreak havoc** in you life

it is a **sin** that **must be Repented of** – just **like any other sin** !

**2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)**

**10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation . . .**

**“Godly Sorrow” = LIT: “Sorrow that is due (owed to) God”**

**“Repentance” - IS: “A change of Mind, Purpose, and Action”**

**Godly SORROW** - is **Sorrow** that we **OWE to God** for our **Sin**

& **God says - THAT Correct Type** of **Sorrow** -

**Produces** a **“a change of Mind, Purpose, and Action”**

The **CORRECT TYPE** of **Sorrow** - Produces the **CORRECT CHANGE**  
**in** Your **THINKING** - Your **PURPOSE** - & Your **ACTIONS**

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**Probably the Greatest Display of Godly Sorrow  
Producing True Repentance - is found in Psa 51**

**PSA 51 should be REQUIRED "In-Depth" Study  
For EVERY CHRISTIAN**

**Because we are TERRIBLE at  
Recognizing - Admitting - & Repenting of - our OWN SIN**

**YES - PSA 51 came out of EXTREME SIN  
But it Fully APPLIES to EVERY ONE of us - as Sinners**

**In PSA 51 - King David displays - True Godly Sorrow  
& we see a True Change in his Mind, Purpose, & Action**

We can't go thru it ALL Here - But YOU should

### **Psalm 51:3–4 (NLT)**

***3 For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night.***

Step 1 - Recognize (feel the pain)

***4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight . . .*** (Step 3 - this is Godly Sorrow)

### **Psalm 51:7–8 (NLT)**

***7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.***

That is Step 2 - Receiving God's Command - to remove this sin

***8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice.*** (the Torture of un-repentent sin)

**Psalm 51:10–12 (NLT)**

***10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.*** - (that's Step 4 - Haven't got there yet)

***11 Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.***

(recognizing sin separates from God)

***12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.*** (same as the Father we just saw in Mark 9)

& **then** - the **KILLER vs's** of **True** Godly **SORROW**  
that **PRODUCES** True **REPENTANCE** is in

**Psalm 51:17 (NLT)**

***17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.***

**THIS** is **True Godly SORROW**  
that **PRODUCES True REPENTANCE**

It is **POWERFUL** - & it is **LIFE CHANGING**  
& we **SEE it SO SELDOM** in **Christian's** Lives

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**But** - if you will **PUT YOURSELF** in **THIS PLACE**  
Of **Godly Sorrow** that **Produces True Repentance**

**You will be well on your way to being Transformed**  
**OUT** of the **DESTRUCTION** of UN-**Forgiveness**  
& **INTO** the **HEALING** of God's **DIVINE Forgiveness**

**But** - to **GET THERE** - You must **Repent** – w/ Godly Sorrow  
of your Sin of Un-Forgiveness

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**#2) We must Receive God’s Command to Forgive** (*by faith*)

**#3) We must Repent of our sin** (*with Godly Sorrow*)

**#4) We must Replace our Hard Heart – with God’s Heart**

**At the cross** – there **was** an “**Exchange of Hearts**”  
**Jesus Christ** took upon **Himself** our **heart of sin** –  
& He **gave** us **His own Heart**

**Paul understood** this when He said in **Gal 2:20**

**20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;**

**This is a SUPERNATURAL PROCESS**

**If you** will **RECOGNIZE** the **Unforgiveness** in your Heart

**If you** will **RECEIVE** God’s **Command to Forgive** - By Faith

**If you** will **REPENT** of your **Sin** - With **Godly Sorrow**

**I PROMISE YOU - GOD** will Begin

to **REPLACE** your **HARD Heart** - with His **DIVINE Heart**

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**When we begin to Crucify our Self-Will - & our Pride**

**OUR Life will begin to DIE**

**& the Life of CHRIST will begin to LIVE - IN US**

**& we will be TRANSFORMED**

**From UNForgiveness - to - DIVINE Forgiveness**

**Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)**

***1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.***

***2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind . . .***

**This is the supernatural transformation of your heart –**

**It's what God has CALLED you to - & it's what you NEED**

**But - You must CHOOSE**

**to Give UP, Give IN, & Give OVER**

**You must CHOOSE to Yield to God Completely**

**So that YOUR LIFE becomes a Living Sacrifice to God**

**& HIS LIFE begins to Live IN you - & Come THRU You**

**This is what we see in Eph 4:17-32 - & Col 3:1-17**

***Write those down - PLEASE - Study them later***

**1) Put off the Old Nature**

**2) Be Renewed in the Spirit of your mind**

**3) Put on the New Nature (an exchange of Hearts)**

**& all that Anger - Wrath - Malice - & Slander . . .**  
it all **begins to Heal**

**& you begin to live in God's MERCY & God's GRACE**  
**& you Begin to BE Transformed into HIS Image**

**These are attributes of God's heart – NOT your own heart**

**BUT - in order to Experience God's Life IN US**

**We must Replace our Hard Heart – with God's Divine Heart**

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**So - THAT is the Supernatural Process of**

**Living in Divine Forgiveness**

- 1) **RECOGNIZE** – Unforgiveness in your heart (*feel the pain*)
- 2) **RECEIVE** – God's Command to Forgive (*by faith alone*)
- 3) **REPENT** – Of your Sin (*with Godly Sorrow*)
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**But then there's that Pesky Step # 5**

The **5<sup>th</sup> step** is actually **the Secret** to **LIVING in Divine Forgiveness**

Not just **experiencing it** - **temporarily**  
but **living in it every day** of your life

The **Secret 5<sup>th</sup> Step** to **LIVING** in **Divine Forgiveness** is

**Repeat** - as **often as necessary**

**THIS** is **the Secret** - to a **LIFE of Divine Forgiveness**

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**When the Sin of Un-Forgiveness rises up AGAIN  
to Destroy your life - - You must REPEAT the Process !!**

**Sometimes – this needs to be a DAILY process - for a while**

**BUT - it will become easier  
AS you allow GOD’S HEART - to Replace YOUR HEART**

**LIVING in Divine Forgiveness is a Lifelong commitment  
because our Flesh is a lifelong enemy**

**So – when your Mind starts Dwelling on that PAIN again  
when you find yourself re-playing an offense, or a hurt**

**You must RECOGNIZE that you are Pouring POISON  
right back into your heart - AGAIN**

**& you must Immediately CRUCIFY the Flesh - Again  
& begin to WALK in the Spirit - Again**

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**You don't have to be a slave to your Unforgiveness  
anger, bitterness, and resentment don't have to destroy your life**

**You can begin to get Victory over the sin of Un-Forgiveness  
Right Now – God is WILLING - & He is WAITING**

**The QUESTION is - Are YOU WILLING ??**

**Are you WILLING to**

- 1) RECOGNIZE – Unforgiveness in your heart**
- 2) RECEIVE – God's Command to Forgive**
- 3) REPENT – Of your Sin**
- 4) REPLACE – Your hard heart with God's heart**
- 5) REPEAT – as often as necessary**

**Let's Pray**