

We're in our **6TH MSG** in the **Give Up Series**

We started by explaining how - in the **Christian Life** -
we must **GIVE UP, GIVE IN, & GIVE OVER**

& then - **we've been doing TWO Msgs** on **each** of those areas
We did **2 Msgs** on **Giving UP** our **PRIDE**
Then **2 Msgs** on **Giving IN** to the **LORDSHIP** of Jesus Christ

& Today - we **start TWO Msgs** (maybe 3) - on **GIVING OVER**
what we **CAN'T CONTROL** in our lives

How many of you **know** - We **HOLD ON** to stuff
that **God calls** us to **GIVE OVER** to Him

& often - we **HOLD ON** w/ a **VULCAN GRIP**
This is MINE, I DESERVE to hold on to this,
this is what DRIVES me

& very often - **These things we HOLD ON to**
Not only Negatively Affect our Lives -
But **CAN bring** real **DESTRUCTION** into our lives

There are **PLENTY** of things - we **DEMAND** to **HOLD ON** to -
that we **must learn** to **GIVE OVER** to God

But **today** - I want to **talk about** one of the **Big Ones** - -
that is - **HOLDING ON** - to the **SIN** of **UNFORGIVENESS**

Unforgiveness - & All the SINS that Go WITH IT:
Anger, Bitterness, Malice, Resentment, Jealousy

Can **Very Easily Destroy** your **life** (*from the inside out*)

**BUT - God has Made a Way - to SAVE You from Self-Destruction
& It is thru the MIRACLE of DIVINE FORGIVENESS**

Let's Pray

**Many of the Greatest LESSONS in the Bible -
are taught thru ILLUSTRATION**

**& One of those GREAT Lessons - is found in The Book of HOSEA
- - - So - FIND Hosea - (After Daniel, 1st of Minor Prophets)**

**Hosea was God's Prophet to Israel
Just before the FALL of the Northern Kingdom**

**Israel had so badly turned their back on God
& were living for the gods of this world - & for themselves**

**Israel had HUMILIATED God - & DISGRACED God -
& were living in open DEFIANCE of God**

**& God wanted His people to SEE - His level of
Love & DIVINE FORGIVENESS - toward them**

& so God made - a Living Illustration

**Remember - Hosea Is the Prophet of God - God's Spokesman -
God's Representative to Israel**

Hosea 1:2 - (READING FROM THE NLT)

2 When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution . . .

Now **THAT** doesn't seem Quite Right
for **GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE** to His people, **does it?**

So **God explains WHY** - in the **2nd half** of the **Vs**

2 . . . This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods."

Israel had **turned** their **backs** on God - **AGAIN**

They had **Rejected** Him, & **Rebelle**d against Him - **AGAIN**

& God wanted Israel to know;

that He was **FULLY AWARE** of their Sin against Him

& that His "**Offer of Forgiveness**" - had not changed

& WE are those SAME people of God

We have **SINNED** against **God**

We have **TURNED** away from **God**

We have been **LOVERS** of this **World** (& self) **instead** of God

& **God** wants **US** - **You & I** - to **Know** the **Full Extent** of

His **WILLINGNESS** to completely **FORGIVE US**

So **He** has a **PROPHET of God** - Marry a **Prostitute** -

to be a **Living Illustration** to each of us

Hosea 1:3 (NLT)

3 So Hosea married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she became pregnant and gave Hosea a son.

Now - You **KNOW** this **girl's gonna** have a **ROUGH LIFE**

the **MINUTE** her **parents** named her **GOMER**

Gomer was also an **Israelite** - & most **probably worked**
at **one** of the **Pagan SHRINES** (*places of worship*)

Because Israel had Fully **EMBRACED**
one of the **Pagan World's** favorite **WORSHIP** Practices

That was - to go to a house of "Worship" (for a Pagan god)
where you **would make** a "**Donation**" to that **god**
then "**Consummate**" your **worship** with a Shrine "**Priestess**"

So - it was Prostitution in the Name of Worship
& **Suddenly** - all the **MEN** in Israel
were **very interested** in **worshipping** the **pagan Gods**

& so **Gomer** was a Pagan **Shrine Prostitute**

& The **Prophet of God** - Walks in & asks this **Prostitute**
named **GOMER** - to **Marry Him**

& he Rescues her from that lifestyle
AS a PICTURE of God's Desire
to **RESCUE His People** from their **SPIRITUAL ADULTERY**

So - after Hosea **RESCUED GOMER**
from **her life of Prostitution** - what did **GOMER** Do ?

Well - She went **BACK** to being a **Prostitute**

JUST LIKE God's people so often **GO BACK**
to their **Spiritual Adultery** with the World

So - **NOW WHAT?** - well, **NOW** we see the **Illustration**
of the **DEPTH** of God's **Divine Forgiveness**

In Ch 2 - there are CONSEQUENCES for Gomer's sin . . .

But then in Hosea 3:1-2 (NLT)

1 Then the Lord said to me (Hosea), "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the Lord still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them."

2 So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine.

**Hosea didn't just ALLOW Gomer to Come back to him -
He BOUGHT her BACK**

He BOUGHT HER BACK - Out of the Sin She had returned to -
AFTER he had already BOUGHT Her out of that sin ONCE

This is a Picture - a Real Life Illustration
of the EXTENT of God's FORGIVENESS - toward US

**WE - have turned our back on God - & Committed Spiritual Adultery
& God has BOUGHT US BACK - some of us - MANY TIMES**

Tho we NEVER Deserved it - He has FORGIVEN us
& He RESTORED US - Completely

THAT - is a Picture - of God's Divine Forgiveness

& God wants to bring *THAT* Divine Forgiveness into *YOUR* life

**#1) Because it is one of the MOST VISIBLE Signs
of GOD'S Life - Taking over YOUR Life**

#2) Because UnForgiveness - is DESTROYING YOUR LIFE

Unforgiveness - & the **sins** that come **FROM IT**
destroy you from the INSIDE OUT

& it is **one** of the **Enemy's "Most Used"** Tools
to bring **BONDAGE & DESTRUCTION** - into a **Christian's Life**

But **God Loves** you **SO MUCH** - that He has **Given you a way**
to **BREAK** the **Bondage & Destruction** of **Unforgiveness**

Now **Let me say** (before we cont) - I know that **SOME**
Who **have** had **Very Serious & Very Traumatic** events in their **lives**

& I am **NOT saying** - this is **EASY** - or happens **INSTANTANEOUSLY**

But I **am saying** - God **Desires** to **FREE you** from the
BONDAGE & DESTRUCTION of **Unforgiveness** in your life

& so - I'd like YOU to ask GOD right now - to SHOW you
that **PERSON** - you have **NOT Forgiven**
that **SITUATION** - you have **NOT Forgiven**

& as **we Go On** - Please - **ALLOW** the **Holy Spirit** to Continue
to **Bring up** that **PERSON** or **SITUATION** in your mind

Today I want to give you - **3 SUPERNATURAL Steps**
to **Experiencing** Divine Forgiveness in your life

& **can I just say** again - these are **SUPERNATURAL Steps**

Divine Forgiveness is the **Life of Jesus Christ - IN YOU -**
Doing What You could **NEVER do** in **YOURSELF**

3 Supernatural Steps to Divine Forgiveness

#1) We must Make the Comparison

#2) We must Receive God's Mercy

#3) We must Give Out God's Grace

These are **Supernatural - Transforming Steps**
to **Experiencing** God's **Divine Forgiveness**

& **IF** you will **Commit** to **CONTINUALLY EMBRACING** them

God **WILL SAVE YOU** from the **DESTRUCTION**
that **UNFORGIVENESS** is **currently causing** in your life

#1) We Must MAKE the Comparison

Turn to Mat 18 - Jesus has just **finished** the section
on how to "**Correctly**" **Correct** another **Believer**

& Then (**vs 21**) - **Peter** asks **Jesus the Question** - "***Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?***"

Jesus replies (**vs 22**) -

"No, not seven times, but seventy times seven!"

& **many of us** have heard that - but **still** . . . we **REFUSE** to do it

& so **Jesus tells us** an incredible parable - to help us **DESIRE**
to **BRING** God's **Divine Forgiveness** into our lives

We must **First DESIRE IT** - We must **Truly WANT**
to **Experience** God's **Divine Forgiveness** in our life

& **THAT** is what this **Parable is about** -
We call it - "**Making the Comparison**"

I'll Use the NLT - & just read thru it - commenting as I go

Matthew 18:23–35 (NLT)

23 “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.

24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.

An un-payable debt - in the orig = over 300 TONS of silver

25 He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. (normal debt collection procedure)

26 “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’

27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

The Master here is **GOD** -

& **YOU** are the **servant** with the **UNPAYABLE** Debt

& **if you** are **Saved** today -

it is **because God** had **COMPASSION** on you

He **RELEASED** you - & He **FORGAVE** Your **Un-Payable Debt**

Now we move to a **picture** of **YOU**

& the **person** who has **wronged you**

28 “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars . . .

pocket-change compared to what he had **been forgiven**

28 . . . He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

29 “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded.

30 But his creditor (the one who’d just been forgiven) wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

31 “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.

32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.

33 (our Key vs) Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’

Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as (in the same way as) I had mercy on you?’

Shouldn’t **WE** - have **MERCY** on others - in the same way that God has had **MERCY** on US?

We **MUST** - **MAKE THIS COMPARISON**

Because **HERE** is **God’s RESPONSE** if we DON’T

To **the Servant** - who would **NOT Forgive**

AS He had **BEEN** Forgiven - **V.34** says . . .

Mat 18:34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

What do you **mean** - **TO BE TORTURED** - That’s pretty **Radical**

- Even **MORE Radical** - is the Final Vs

35 “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Very **Often** - **Unforgiveness** becomes
Mental & Emotional TORTURE in our Lives

We want to **CONTROL** our “**Right**” to **NOT Forgive**
But our **Unforgiveness ALWAYS** ends up - **Controlling US**

But **God says** - I’ve **MADE** a way - & I’ve given you **MYSELF**
as the **POWER** to be **FREED** from that **torture**

But **YOU** must **CHOOSE** - To **WALK** in it - (live in it)

We must CHOOSE - to GIVE OVER to God

What we **Cannot FIX**

What we **Cannot HANDLE**

What we **Cannot CONTROL**

God has **MADE** a Supernatural **WAY** - to **HEAL** You -
& to **FREE you** from the **TORTURE** of **Unforgiveness**

The **First Step** - is to **Truly & Earnestly - DESIRE IT**

Let me **give** you just **ONE Cross-Reference** - For **Motivation**

FORGIVENESS is **SUCH** a **HUGE DEAL** to God -
that He has put **Serious Warnings** in Scripture about it

When **Jesus finished** what we call the **Lord’s Prayer** . . .

of ALL the truths He could've gone back & commented on Jesus only commented on ONE truth from that prayer

The Two Vs that FOLLOW the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:14–15 (NLT)

14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

WHAT ?? - Does that mean if I haven't forgiven somebody that I am NOT SAVED ?? - - - No

This is NOT referring to "POSITIONAL" Forgiveness
this IS referring to "RELATIONAL" Forgiveness

I means that the SIN of Unforgiveness
KEEPS you from a Right Relationship with God

Just write ISA 59:1-2 down - & Read it later

The Sin of Unforgiveness
Separates you from a Right Relationship with God

So - the 1st STEP - is to "Make The Comparison" -
& Truly DESIRE to Experience Divine Forgiveness in your life

Step #2 is - We must RECEIVE God's MERCY

When I say RECEIVE - I don't mean (so much)
Receive it for our OWN Benefit

I Mean RECEIVE IT as in - Receiving the Nature of God
TO TAKE OVER your SIN NATURE

Allowing God's MERCY - to "Take Over" our UNFORGIVENESS

As Christians - we MUST Allow GOD'S nature
to begin to TAKE OVER - OUR Nature

& to experience Divine Forgiveness - you must ALLOW
the MERCY of GOD - to TAKE OVER your UNFORGIVENESS

DEFINITION of Mercy: NOT Giving someone what they Deserve

That is exactly what God has done for YOU
& that is exactly what God calls you to Do - to Someone else

The word means Literally - to TEAR UP the NOTE (the Debt)

& again - back in Mat 18:33 - Jesus said - *Shouldn't YOU show
Mercy to that person - because I have shown Mercy to you?*

Again - Jesus turns it around
as BOTH a BLESSING & a WARNING in the Beatitudes

Matthew 5:7 (ESV)

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

& so - what about when we DO NOT show Mercy
THEN what do we receive ?

Guys - God calls us to Forgive
IN THE SAME WAY as He has Forgiven us . . .

Col 3:13 says *We must forgive one another JUST AS*
the Lord has Forgiven US (“Just As” = In the same WAY)

BECAUSE (Listen Closely)

It is GOD Doing the FORGIVING - Inside Us

It is GOD Showing MERCY - Inside Us

It is GOD Giving GRACE - Inside Us

This is NOT Something WE do

This is Something GOD DOES - IN US

& Once we Truly Recognize our NEED
to EXPERIENCE Divine Forgiveness in our life

The Next Step is to ALLOW God's Supernatural MERCY
to Take OVER - the PAIN of our Unforgiveness

HOW DAVE ? - HOW ?

HOW do we allow the MERCY of God -
to TAKE OVER - our UNFORGIVENESS ??

We do it - By GIVING UP
By Giving UP, Giving IN, & Giving OVER

We do it by GIVING OVER
The Things we Can't FIX
The Things we Can't HANDLE
The Things we Can't CONTROL

RELEASING those **things** to God - & **TRUSTING** Him -
to **REPLACE** them - **with HIS MERCY**

& **Not** just **ASKING ONCE** - **This Must** become a **LIFESTYLE**
of **ASKING** - **SEEKING** & **KNOCKING**

Just like Jesus said in LUKE 11:9-10

Ask & Keep on Asking

Seek & Keep on Seeking

Knock & Keep on Knocking

*(v.10) For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks
finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened - (Lk 11:9-10)*

God wants to **TRANSFORM you** -
INTO Forgiving AS Christ **Forgave** you (2Cor 3:18)

But you MUST Surrender Full Control to Him

You must **GIVE OVER** - Your **Unforgiveness** - to God
& **RECEIVE** His **MERCY** *toward others*

& **FINALLY** - After we've "**Made the Comparison**"

& After we **BEGIN** to **Allow God**

o **REPLACE** Our **Unforgiveness** with **HIS Mercy**

Then, **Step #3 - We Must GIVE OUT GOD'S Grace**

NOT Our Grace - **God's Grace** that **HE plants IN US**

We're talking about the **LIFE** of **Jesus** Christ **IN YOU**
Truly Transforming your **HEART**, & Your **ACTIONS**

& WHEN that Begins to Truly HAPPEN - You will Begin to see
God's GRACE - Truly SHOWING in your life

GRACE - *is GIVING Someone - what they DON'T Deserve*

<p><u>MERCY</u> - is <u>NOT GIVING</u> Someone - <i>what they DO Deserve</i> <u>GRACE</u> - is <u>GIVING</u> Someone - <i>what they DON'T Deserve</i></p>

GRACE - *is GIVING Someone - what they DON'T Deserve*
& GRACE - CHANGES - EVERYTHING

But THIS Grace - The Grace of God - You Don't Have in Yourself
This Grace must be POURED INTO your Life

Romans 5:5 (ESV)

5 . . . God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

You can't WORK this UP

God's LOVE - & GRACE - Must be POURED into your Heart
THRU the Holy Spirit Who's been given to you

& when you Truly GIVE UP
& begin to Receive God's MERCY & His LOVE

God will begin -
to TRANSFORM YOUR Heart - into HIS HEART

You will BEGIN - To GIVE OUT - HIS Grace

It requires a Transformed Life - to Truly LIVE
the Character Traits of God - Especially Divine Forgiveness

It Requires FULL SURRENDER - Of ALL that we HOLD ON to

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT)

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

**JUST AS - In the SAME WAY - that God has Forgiven You
So you are Called to FORGIVE**

**But what God DOES NOT SAY is - You have to WORK THIS UP
Or - You have to FIGURE this OUT**

What God says is - You have to Earnestly DESIRE it
& Wholeheartedly RECEIVE it

& if you will TRULY Begin to DO THAT - God will Begin
to POUR HIS Mercy & HIS Grace - into Your HEART

& it WILL CHANGE YOU - & at some point -
you WILL experience in your life - Divine Forgiveness

God wants to FREE YOU - from the BONDAGE
& DESTRUCTION of your Unforgiveness

He wants you to SURRENDER IT - *He wants you to GIVE UP*

He wants you to Earnestly SEEK HIM - to Create in you
a NEW Heart
a CLEAN Heart
HIS Heart

Listen carefully to 3 vs from Psa 51 - then we'll Pray

Psalm 51:10–12 (NLT)

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

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

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

What God wants - is a Surrendered & Willing Heart

**& IF you HAVE a Surrendered & Willing Heart -
& iof you will Earnestly SEEK IT . . .**

**God WILL Bring the MIRACLE of Divine Forgiveness
into YOUR life**

Let's Pray

Mark 11:25 (ESV)

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."