

# THE FOUNDATION OF FORGIVENESS

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Before addressing our own ability to forgive, we must consider the inspiration for it, where the power to do so resides, and even why we should. That understanding comes from The Foundation of Forgiveness, which rests in God alone and the forgiveness received from Him. Only the one who knows God's forgiveness personally can truly forgive in a way to fully restore joyful freedom in one's personal life and with others. God's forgiveness needs to be applied personally as well as understood inspirationally.

## WHAT DRIVES GOD'S FORGIVENESS

- Love (John 3:16)
- Mercy (Psalm 103:11)
- Grace (Ephesians 2:4-8)
- Kindness (Ephesians 2:4-8)
- Justice (Romans 6:23)
- Self-Sacrifice (Isaiah 53:5)

God forgives because of love for people, in mercy not giving them what they deserve, in grace doing for them what they don't deserve, in spirit and heart showing kindness rather than spite, and allowing all wrongdoing to be justified through His self-sacrifice. This is the work of forgiveness, founded in the very nature of God's person.

## HOW FAR GOD'S FORGIVENESS EXTENDS

- To Everyone (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Revelation 22:17)
- For All Sin (1 John 1:9)
- For All Time (Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19); Hebrews 10:17)

God reveals the depth of His forgiveness by extending it to everyone, for anything given to Him, and for all time.

#### **WHAT RESULTS COME FROM GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

- Redemption: The work whereby the lost have sins forgiven
- Restoration: Getting back what was lost because of sin
- Reconciliation: How disagreeing parties come to peace
- Relationship: Reinstatement of a personal and peaceful fellowship

Most important in understanding forgiveness is making sure that you have received forgiveness personally offered through the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know the forgiveness of God in your life? Today, do you know that your sins, all your sins, have been given to God for His cleansing? Nothing in your life is more important than this. Nothing is more transformative. Nothing will bring greater peace, comfort, satisfaction, and hope.

If you want to be prepared to gain further peace with others through forgiveness, you must first experience the peace found through God's forgiveness.