

5 Day Devotional
August 30, 2026 AM Sermon
“Being forgiven changes everything”

Day 1: The Freedom of Complete Forgiveness

Reading: Hebrews 10:1-10

Devotional: The Old Testament sacrificial system was a repeated reminder of sin, never fully resolving the debt. But Christ's sacrifice was final and complete. Your sins are not merely covered — they are removed. Many believers intellectually accept forgiveness while emotionally living as though the debt remains unpaid. God does not want you returning to the altar of regret daily. His forgiveness is not partial. It reaches your worst moments, your hidden failures, and even the sins you have not yet committed. Rest today in the completed work of Christ. The price was paid in full.

Application: Write down one area of past failure you continue to carry. Pray specifically over it, surrendering it to God, and remind yourself that Christ's sacrifice already addressed it.

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Day 2: Conviction Versus Condemnation

Reading: Romans 8:1-4; Psalm 32:1-5

Devotional: There is a critical difference between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the condemnation of the enemy. God convicts you of a specific sin so that you can repent and move forward in freedom. Satan condemns you with the weight of your entire past so that you remain paralyzed in shame. Psalm 32 describes the overwhelming blessing of having transgression forgiven and sin covered. The person who draws closer to Jesus will find themselves more aware of their shortcomings, not because God is disappointed, but because the light of His presence reveals what needs to be surrendered.

Application: The next time you experience guilt, pause and ask whether it points to a specific action requiring repentance or a general shame requiring surrender. Respond accordingly, and thank God for the freedom available through confession.

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Day 3: The Evidence of Salvation Through Forgiveness

Reading: Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:31-32

Devotional: Peter thought seven acts of forgiveness was generous. Jesus redirected him entirely. The parable that follows reveals something sobering: a person who has genuinely experienced the magnitude of God's forgiveness will be compelled to extend forgiveness to others. Refusing to forgive does not cause you to lose salvation — it reveals whether genuine salvation ever took place. The fruit of a transformed heart is the capacity to forgive people who do not deserve it. This is not a human ability. It is a supernatural one, produced only by the Holy Spirit working within a surrendered life. Forgiveness looks most like Jesus.

Application: Make a list of people you are struggling to forgive. Begin praying for each person by name daily, asking God to soften your heart and give you a perspective shaped by His grace rather than your pain.

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Day 4: Confronting Unforgiveness Before It Hardens

Reading: Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 12:14-15

Devotional: Jesus provided a clear, structured process for addressing sin between believers. The process begins with a private conversation — not a group text, not a social media post, not years of silent resentment. When offenses go unaddressed, bitterness takes root. Hebrews warns that a root of bitterness can defile not only you but many around you. Unspoken grievances harden into walls that eventually feel permanent. The person who refuses to confront and resolve conflict does not protect themselves from pain — they guarantee it. Obedience to Matthew 18 is not optional for the believer. It is the pathway to restored relationship and personal freedom.

Application: Identify one unresolved conflict. Pray for wisdom and courage, then take a single step toward resolution this week, whether that is writing a letter, making a phone call, or requesting a meeting.

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Day 5: Living Forgiven, Extending Forgiveness

Reading: Psalm 103:8-12; Colossians 3:12-14

Devotional: Psalm 103 offers one of the most breathtaking descriptions of God's forgiveness in all of Scripture. He has removed your transgressions as far as the east is from the west — a distance without measurable end. Colossians calls believers to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, and above all, forgiveness, bearing with one another as the Lord has borne with you. The forgiveness God extends to you is not meant to end with you. It is meant to flow through you into every relationship you carry. A life marked by genuine forgiveness becomes a living testimony that the grace of God is real, transforming, and worth receiving.

Application: Choose one relationship that needs the renewal of forgiveness — either offering it or asking for it. Take one concrete step today, and ask God to make your life a visible reflection of the grace He has shown you.