

I RESOLVE... To Forgive 12-28- 2025

December 27, 2025



...To Forgive

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

New Year's Resolutions - I RESOLVE...

1. Success Rates
 - a. Low Success - only 9-10% of people keep their resolution for the whole year
 - b. Early Abandonment - Some studies show 23% quit in first week and a significant portion fail by the end of January
 - c. Who Sets Them - Young adults 19-34 are more likely to set resolutions, while older adults (50+) are far less likely
2. Popular Resolutions - I RESOLVE...

- a. Health & Fitness
- b. Financial
- c. Personal Growth
- 3. Why they fail
 - a. Lack of specific, small actionable steps
 - b. The Resolution is overwhelming
- 4. How to Succeed
 - a. Be Specific - Vague = Exercise More, Specific = Walk 30 mins 3x a week
 - b. Start Small - Incorporate Tiny, Easy Habits that build over time (before trying to read the Bible through in a year, start with a "Scripture of the Day" or "Daily Devotion" and be determined to maintain)
 - c. Vocalize / Write it Down / Make it Known - People are 10 times more likely to achieve goals they make public (Help Accountable)
 - d. Track & Revisit - Regularly check on your goals (Resolutions) to stay on track
- 5. "The trouble with not having a goal is that you can spend your life running up and down the field and never score." Bill Copeland (former cricket umpire and writer)
 - a. I once heard a pastor say, "We don't set goals at our church, we let the Holy Spirit lead us"
 - b. God had very specific goals and plans in the Bible. Jesus didn't just show up in Bethlehem at the leading of the Spirit. There were hundreds of prophecies (Plans - Resolutions) leading to the Birth of Jesus.
 - c. Everything God does has a plan. He has a plan for you - Jeremiah 29:11 NLT
 - d. How do we think we are going to be successful in Life, Business and most importantly Our Christian Walk without a plan - I RESOLVE...

Vision 2026

- 1. January 25, 2026
- 2. Exiting Plans and Vision Resolutions for Lakeside!
- 3. Mark Your Calendar Now! - You Don't Want to Miss this REVEALING!

Transitioning from one Year to Another - One Season to Another

1. Before Transitioning to a New Year of a New Season in your Life, Your Home, Your Business, etc., Spend time REFLECTING on the Previous year or Previous Season.
2. Stop! Take a Break!
3. Evaluate Success and Challenges!
4. As the Israelites journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land, God would have them STOP and camp at a certain location for a while.
 - a. They Rested
 - b. They Regained their Strength
 - c. They Worshipped
 - d. They Prayed
 - e. They Reflected - They sat around and talked about what just happened.
5. Business Year End - Clean Up and Prepare
 - a. Clean up A/R's
 - b. Bring Account Payables up to date - get as much on this year as possible
 - c. Evaluate equipment, property and asset needs
 - d. Meet with CPAs and accountants in preparation for upcoming taxes
 - e. Evaluate Staff - conduct interviews, etc
 - f. All to be done PRIOR to going into the next Season or the next Year
6. Personal Testimony - Yearly time between Christmas and New Years to Rest, Reflect and Plan for the New Year
7. THE Church must also Reflect and Clean House prior to moving to a New Season or New Year

I RESOLVE... To Forgive

1. Unforgiveness is one of the greatest hinderances in our lives today.
 - a. 30 Years ago Satan used infidelity, divorce, alcohol, drugs
 - b. This NEXT GEN doesn't want any part of that. Among Christians - divorce is down, alcohol use is at an all-time low,

Satans weapons of 30 years ago are not as effective...

2. Unforgiveness has become an old tactic made new again and it's effecting..
 - a. Marriages / Homes
 - b. Families - being torn apart
 - c. Friendships - shattered
 - d. Churches
 - e. Business
 - f. Health
3. Unforgiveness is a "Cancer" that enters through a small seed of Offense and begins to mutate and overtake healthy thoughts, actions and plans

Offenses will Come - YOU ARE GOING TO GET OFFENDED

1. Matthew 18:7, tells us that Offenses will come - it is inevitable. The Amplified Bible calls these Offenses "Stumbling Blocks"
2. Offenses are tools/tricks of the enemy to get YOU to stumble
3. Offenses usually come from People who are close to you
 - a. Someone cutting you off in traffic may cause you to get angry, but doesn't cause an Offense. You go home, write it off and go on.
 - b. BUT, when someone close (Family Member, Friend, Co-Worker, Boss, Friend/attendee at Church, etc) says or does something that hurts or causes anger/strife, etc it now becomes an OFFENSE - a STUMBLING BLOCK
 - c. It may or may not have been done on purpose - doesn't matter - You're Offended and IF NOT DEALT WITH, IT WILL CHANGE YOU!!
4. An OFFENDED Person OFFENDS
 - a. Human nature wants to Retaliate
 - b. Human nature wants to Expose the Offender - get others on one's side
 - c. Human nature wants REVENGE

Christ Forgave - We MUST Forgive

1. Parable of Unforgiving Servant - As told by Jesus Himself

2. Matthew 18:23-35
3. If your brother sins against you (Offends you)... Matthew 18:15, "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."
4. Forgiveness RELEASES the Offended from the sin of unforgiveness. It releases the Offended from the "cancer" of the offense
5. Jesus taught the Disciples to pray for Forgiveness Matthew 6:9-13
6. He then made a bold statement in Matthew 6:14-15
7. FORGIVE and FORGET!
 - a. The Psalmist writes in Psalms 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."
 - b. If God Forgives and Forgets - We MUST do the Same
 - c. Move on - DO NOT LET SATAN use this against you any longer
8. Forgiveness RELEASES the Weight and prohibits Unforgiveness from being a stumbling block any longer!
9. REMEMBER: We wrestle NOT against Flesh and Blood Ephesians 6:12

Father, I pray today for you to open my spiritual eyes to this weapon Satan uses called Unforgiveness. If I'm harboring unforgiveness due to offenses, reveal that to me today I pray. Give me the boldness to take a stand against this Unforgiveness. Help me to understand the Love of Christ shown by Jesus when asked for you to Forgive the very ones who were crucifying Him while He was nailed to the cross. Let this same love flow through me as I reach out to those this week to ask their Forgiveness or to Forgive! I declare that I will not allow Satan to hinder my walk with you through Unforgiveness. I desire to walk into 2026 with a clean Spiritual Home! In Jesus Name I pray, Amen