

FORGIVENESS is Supernatural

In the Old Testament King David's psalms frequently explore divine forgiveness.

Psalm 103:3-4 NASB

3 Who pardons all your guilt,

Who heals all your diseases;

4 Who redeems your life from the pit,

Who crowns you with favor and compassion;

David proclaims that God “forgives all your iniquities” and “heals all your diseases,” affirming God’s mercy.

In addition to his teachings, passages such as

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us debate your case,”

Says the Lord,

“Though your sins are as scarlet,

They shall become as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be like wool.

God is saying, although there is sin, they “**are like scarlet,**” they shall become “**white as snow,**” demonstrating God’s compassionate readiness for complete cleansing.

In the New Testament, Jesus brings forgiveness to the forefront.

The Greek term “**aphiēmi**” carries the sense of “**letting go**” or “**sending away**” sin.

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Jesus teaches His followers to pray,

Matthew 6:12

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”.

Immediately after this model prayer,

Jesus further clarifies that if believers forgive others, they can expect God’s forgiveness,

BUT withholding it results in disruption in the force.

Matthew 6:14-15

14 For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive other people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.

One of the most powerful examples of Jesus’ teachings on forgiveness is the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant!

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how many times shall my brother sin against me and I still forgive him? Up to seven times?”

*22 Jesus *said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy-seven times.*

23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves.

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24 And when he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

25 But since he did not have the means to repay, his master commanded that he be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment be made.

26 So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'

27 And the master of that slave felt compassion, and he released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe!'

29 So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

30 But he was unwilling, and went and threw him in prison until he would pay back what was owed.

31 So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their master all that had happened.

*32 Then summoning him, his master *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.*

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33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’

34 And his master, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he would repay all that was owed him.

35 My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

After Peter’s question about how often he must forgive an offender, Jesus’s parable underscores that the measure of mercy God extends to humanity must shape how individuals forgive one another.

By illustrating one servant’s massive debt pardoned by his master, only for that servant to withhold forgiveness from someone owing a much smaller debt,

Jesus is conveying that at the **CORE** a Christian should carry a forgiving spirit!

So what is Jesus telling **US** here.....

Forgiveness does not come naturally.

In fact, it is **supernatural!**

It is **God's** way—It is **His** idea.

Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against

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anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you for your offenses.

Satan uses un-forgiveness as a tool to operate in us daily, in fact as a child, your parents did something wrong to hurt you, or they didn't do something correctly.

Your flesh (*Satan*) automatically begins to justify a protective stance to protect you from allowing hurt to happen!

You mother left you and you felt abandoned, so you made an inner vow that nobody will ever abandon me again.

So you are now going through life, You fall in love and get married. Now the problem exists because you are now vulnerable to being abandoned and as riles come in the marriage, you have this inner vow from childhood that is operating under the service.

So when it is triggered, you are in an argument and you feel that your spouse may leave you, the child triggers a response that I will leave first that way I am not getting abandoned.

So you have successfully bypassed forgiveness and are now safe.

Let me suggest a fairly straightforward process to **FORGIVENESS** this morning

This process consists of **4** simple stages.

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1. Hurt: Identify, experience and express your feelings.

Label them as specifically as you can.

Think back to what gave rise to these feelings.

- ✓ Who did this do to you?
- ✓ When did it occur?
- ✓ Where did it happen?

2. Hate: If you have been hurt, you hate!

It is not wrong to hate; in fact, we are supposed to hate what God hates.

Hate sin, not the sinner. Make this distinction to be sure your hate is directed toward a permissible target.

Un-confessed sin, persistent hatred often leads to depression.

Luke 6:37 - "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned."

3. Hook: Acknowledge the deceptive feeling of control.

Refusing to forgive provides a feeling of power, but this feeling is deceptive as it is really a cover for your own sense of hurt and vulnerability.

- ✓ Refuse to be a victim.
- ✓ Cancel the debt.

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- ✓ Move on with your life.
- ✓ Allow God to be the justice maker.

Revenge feels good for a time; but ultimately, it does not work.

The pain you give can never cancel the pain you have received!

Get out of the way and let God take care of this.

Matthew 6:14-15

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4. Heal: Forgiveness is both an event and a process.

- ✓ Giving forgiveness to an offender is an event.
- ✓ Finding relief from your own pain is a process.
- ✓ It takes time.
- ✓ You must keep opening your **hurt/heart** to God, and you will experience healing over time.

Worship Team

Completing the Stages of Forgiveness

One day you will wake up and find yourself thinking differently about the one who hurt you.

You may never like or trust this person, but the intensity of your hurt will diminish.

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One day you will find yourself praying for your offender.

Soon you will realize you are free.

Pastor Shaun's Declaration- By tapping into God's supernatural forgiveness for you, you now have the ability to forgive others even though they don't deserve it!

Forgiveness is the road to freedom.

But it makes little sense unless seen in the context of Christ's forgiveness toward you.

Ephesians 4:32

32 Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Are you forgiven? Then you can forgive.

The truly forgiven ones can become truly forgiving ones.

God began by forgiving us.

He invites us to forgive others.

Your willingness to participate in the process of forgiveness is a measure of just how much you appreciate being forgiven by God.

Remember, **Forgiveness** does not come naturally.

In fact, it is **supernatural!**