

Truth #7 “Unforgiveness is a Scam”

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Hebrews 12:15 “See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

A. What is forgiveness?

Definition of forgiveness: Intentional and voluntary RELEASE of an offending party from the responsibility of paying a debt or from blame. It is giving up my RIGHT to hurt the offender back. It means to stop beating the person up in my mind.

WHAT IT IS NOT:

- FORGETTING what someone did.
- Expecting or pretending to have a SWEET feeling toward the offender
- Releasing from legal RESPONSIBILITY.

B. God’s command: Mark 11: 25 & 26 “And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have ANYTHING against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Commands to forgive: Matthew 6:14-15, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, Luke 6:37

Forgiveness is a CHOICE. God never asks us to do the impossible.

C. Matthew 18: 21-35 “And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

“To be tortured”: DELIVER TO the torturers, tormenters, jailers

Some Modern-Day Torturers:

- Sickness & disease
- Adverse circumstances; financial reverses, lack of peace
- Addictions
- Spiritual dullness

D. UNTIE God’s hands.

- Ask God to bring faces and situations to mind where I need to forgive.
- Remember to include myself and God. This process takes time.
- Remember, forgiveness is a choice. Choose to forgive.
- Receive release from tormenters through prayer.