

Stepping Into...

**Freedom through
Forgiveness**

“Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves...

God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.

Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships, and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.”

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1. Condemned Under the Law

John 8:1-6 NLT

¹ Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, ² but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. ³ As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

⁴ “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” ⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

2. What Is Forgiveness?

John 8:7-11 NLT

⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but **let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!**” ⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. ⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “**Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?**” ¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “**Neither do I. Go and sin no more.**”

3. God Forgave Us...

Ephesians 1:5-7 NLT

⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the **glorious grace** he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he **purchased our freedom** with the blood of his Son and **forgave our sins**.

Psalms 103:12 NLT

“He has removed our sins **as far from us as the east is from the west.**”

4. Why We Don't Forgive?

Matt 18:21-22 NLT

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “**but seventy times seven!**”

- Not how we're wired
- Feels too painful
- Don't want to 'approve'
- Don't understand the other person
- Blaming others distracts me
- Convinced others are worse than me!

5. Damage by Not Forgiving?

Matt 6:14-15 NLT

¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ **But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

- Stops me moving on
- Health may be affected
- Spiritual growth damaged
- Impacts other areas
- Makes me bitter not better

6. Making Sure I Can Forgive?

Matt 5:44 NLT

“But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!”

Q1. Have I handed the issue to God?

Q2. Can I say “I forgive you” from my heart?

Q3. Have I discovered I can love my enemy?

Q4. Can I pray blessings into that person’s life?



“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.”

Nelson Mandela

7. What Changes When I Forgive?

John.20:24 NLT

²⁴ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and **look at my hands**. Put your hand into **the wound in my side**. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

- Stop the desire to get even
- Swap my bad thoughts for good
- Scars remain but healing comes!
- Stronger physically & spiritually
- Set my full focus on God’s plan

“The Power of Heaven is Activated”

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