

**One Identity Movement**  
*With Samuel C. Petty*

# The Power of Forgiveness

**A Discipleship  
Guide to walking  
in Forgiveness.**



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An important factor in walking with the Lord is understanding the forgiveness that Father God invites us to walk in. An excellent passage that covers this concept is **Matthew 18:21-35** (see reference). Through it, God takes the matter of forgiveness both towards us and coming from us very seriously. Jesus' words give us an understanding of how literal Father God forgives.

For a moment can you imagine forgiving someone seven times in a day for something, let alone seventy times?

The reality is we all need a deeper experience of the Father's love and forgiveness in our hearts that will allow us to release mercy and grace at this level. However, few of us have

fully seen the areas of our lives that need to be forgiven or understood the fact that God has indeed forgiven us and that we are free from all guilt and shame.

You see, our Father is a holy and righteous God in whom there is no darkness at all, yet He is a God of forgiveness. Receiving His forgiveness should bring us to our knees before the One who would condemn us and has every right to condemn us but has chosen to forgive us at a great cost to Himself.

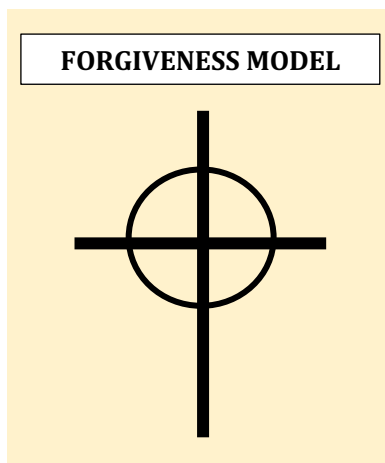
The Greek word “**forgive**” literally means that you **take a thing off a person and send it away**. This is what Father God did for us through Jesus. (**Isaiah 53:6**) We must each accept Jesus’ offer to forgive (carry away our

debt.) Then we need to follow His example and forgive others.

**Important Point: Forgiveness is the setting of one's will, the making of a decision that release is granted to the offending person or situation.**

It can also mean **to pardon**. Forgiveness must flow in several directions. We must **forgive others** (horizontal); we

must **ask and receive forgiveness from God** (vertical); and then we must **forgive ourselves** (circular), which allows the fullness of God's forgiveness to be received.



## **Biblical Principles of Forgiveness**

**1.** God requires us to forgive each other. It is non-negotiable. Issues of fairness, feelings, and right or wrong are not relevant.

**2.** God asks us not only to forgive but to be willing to take initiative for reconciliation when needed.

**3.** God wants forgiveness from the heart, which takes God's grace. We may not be able to start forgiving from our heart, but we can decide to forgive and let the healing process of wholehearted forgiveness start.

**4.** There are consequences to our unforgiveness: we are not forgiven, we are

out from under God's protection, and we are turned over to the tormentors. (**Mark 11:25**)

**5.** Forgiveness needs to take place as long as there is hate, bitterness, resentment, or a desire for the other person to be punished. We need to forgive in an unlimited way. We can begin each day by setting our will to forgive whatever happens to us that day. We can choose to forgive before an offense even occurs.

## **Misconceptions about Forgiveness**

A common misunderstanding is that once the offender is released, all the pain will automatically leave one's heart. The truth is

once the offense is forgiven, the healing process has only just begun. As we forgive, we need Father God to come and heal our hearts and take away the pain. We may also need to renew our mind from any lies that we have come to believe about ourself, others, or even Father God.

Another misconception is while forgiveness starts by making a decision, in most situations forgiveness is a process that takes time, especially if we have been seriously hurt or wounded.

## **Things that can Block Forgiving Others**

**1.** There may be ignorance of the Scriptures.

We may not know what the Bible says about the importance of forgiving others.

**2.** We believe we have to **feel** like forgiving another. No! Once we choose to forgive, God will honor that, and eventually, the feelings of forgiveness will follow.

**3.** Our offense (someone else's offense) may seem too big for God to forgive. Pride is thinking our sin is too big for God to forgive.

**4.** We may **fear** forgiving, equating forgiveness with excusing or ignoring the offense. We can release the offender from the



blame while at the same time acknowledging the hurt or abuse to our life. Forgiveness is not saying that the offense was “okay.” The offender is still responsible for their own actions.

**5.** We may think we have already forgiven, but the Holy Spirit knows best. We need to be willing to ask the Holy Spirit to show us if there is any unforgiveness left.

**6.** By holding on to unforgiveness we may feel we have power over the other person rather than really being a victim.

**7.** A spirit of unforgiveness, bitterness, or control tends to be passed down family lines. These forms of satanic darkness will do

everything they can to prevent forgiveness in us.

## **Steps to Forgive**

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to forgive the person or persons that have hurt you.
2. Take some time to ponder the price Jesus paid for you to personally receive forgiveness. Focus on your specific sins. Recognize that forgiving others is not different than Jesus forgiving you of your sins.
3. Consider the offender. *Hurt People, Hurt People!* Take time to see the pain in the other

person's life. This will help you have compassion for those who hurt you.

**4.** Pray and forgive the person or persons that have hurt you. Take the person and the offense to the cross and release them and let them go. Thank God for working forgiveness in your heart.

**5.** Repent and ask God's forgiveness for your own sin in how you reacted. Repentance means to turn around and go in a different direction intentionally to change. Ask God to forgive you and cleanse you by His blood. Receive God's forgiveness and allow it to become real in your heart.

6. Forgive yourself for holding on to the hurts, bitterness, and unforgiveness. Because God has forgiven you, you need to forgive yourself also.

## **A Prayer Guide to Forgiveness**

*Key Element: God is there anyone I need to forgive?*

I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. I release them from all debt owed me.

I repent for judging \_\_\_\_\_.

I now choose to bless \_\_\_\_\_.

God, is there anyone else I need to forgive?

## **Scripture References on Forgiveness**

*“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. 26 “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. 28 “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and*

*demanded instant payment. 29 “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. 30 But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. 31 “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. 35 “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you*

*if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”*

**Matthew 18:21-35 NLT**

*“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.”*

**Isaiah 53:6 NLT**

*“But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”*

**Mark 11:25 NLT**



OIM School is the discipleship arm of One Identity Movement. Rooted in the revelation of God's love, OIM School reaches many with focus-based discipleship teaching on the Heart of the Father, purity, and daily walking with the Lord as sons and daughters.

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