

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

5/10/25

Forgiveness is the most vital of all practices we both accept and exercise as Christians. Every day of our lives we receive or generate offences of one type or another... mistakes are made, advantages are taken, feelings are hurt. Unless these are dealt with effectively, our lives become negative and our joy and performance falters. Forgiveness is the capacity to remain in harmony with ourselves, with each other and God. Forgiveness is difficult if we are not sure of what God is offering and expecting. Forgiveness is not about making excuses, nor is it about condoning bad behaviour... it is a pardon, where blame and judgement are not enforced. Effective repentance frees our lives and the lives of others from shortcomings which can trouble our conscience and limit our peace and happiness.

*Effectively, forgiveness (whether given or received), restores us every day... it allows us to learn, grow and mature, to reach our full potential... to meet the Lord without blemishes. **JER 10:23** O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps (God's help is essential). & **LAM 3:22** It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. **23** They are **new every morning**: (daily).*

Ongoing forgiveness has a beginning.

*It is also called being 'saved'... a second chance at life. **ACT 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

These verses give an overall summary of the changes that the anointing of the Holy Spirit provide for us.

HEB 10:10 By the which will (God's purpose) we are (p/t) **sanctified** (Set apart from judgment... perfect tense) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**. That means that all sins are able to be cleansed on a daily basis for all overcoming Christians. Being saved frees us from the power of sin, but does not open the door to a sinful life.

Do we stop sinning because we are spirit filled?

*John has the answer for this question. **1JOH 1:7** But if we walk in the light (p/t), as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanseth us from all sin** (which occurs while walking in the light). **8** If we say that we **have no sin** (p/t), we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** (p/t) us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his **word** (p/t) is not in us. Sin is ever present, so is forgiveness.*

These spiritual realities were already revealed to the early church.

ACT 13:39 And by him **all that believe** (p/t) are **justified** (p/t) from **all things**, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. All sins for all of life... for those who walk in the New Testament culture.

There are conditions which keep these promises effective.

Forgiveness depends on meeting the conditions of God's pardon: it only works when we offer and accept repentance.

MAR 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if ye **do not forgive**, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. Our own attitude to others determines God's attitude to us... what you give is what you get!

PRO 28:13 He that **covereth** (hides without admission) his sins shall not **prosper** (at the hand of God, emotionally, physically, financially, spiritually): but whoso **confesseth** and **forsaketh them** shall have **mercy**. This scripture is offering much more than the encouragement to confess our sins against others. It is a wise person who understands that nonforgiveness (pardon) of the sins of others, equally damages our own life. **14 Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.** Many people's lives are wrecked because they have allowed themselves to remain victims of past hurts. Some feel unable to forgive offenders because repentance or reconciliation has not been sought or offered. The offender is not the one who does the real damage, the attitude of the victim determines their own future in God's kingdom. That is how Jesus was empowered to rise again... he forgave them that hurt him. **LUK 23:34** Then said Jesus, Father, **forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. Jesus forgave when repentance was not offered... Jesus knew he was in God's care.

Forgiveness frees people from guilt and builds friendships. Some ask for forgiveness, some don't... Forgive anyway.

1PET 4:8 And **above all things** have (p/t) **fervent charity** (continual care) among yourselves: for charity shall **cover the multitude of sins**. Yours and theirs: a self-healing process that shows our awareness of the mercy God offers us.

PRO 17:9 He that covereth a transgression **seeketh love**; but he that **repeateth** a matter separateth **very friends**. As saints we can make two victims, (us and them), or we can make friends... the choice is always ours.

Forgiveness is always available... it just needs to be tapped into.

This was the original offer that Christ made to the human race... it is still valid today.

MAT 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**. The indwelling spirit of God allows for a full pardon from all sin and weaknesses. No excuses are needed, no condoning justification, just a grace filled pardon, flowing from a humble admission.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find **rest unto your souls**. Forgiveness of sin lifts two burdens... our own sins are not held against us, nor do we hold the sins of others against them. This is not an easy lesson to learn, but learn we must... if not, we will never find the peace and rest on offer.

30 For my yoke is **easy**, and my burden is **light**. Jesus was never more truthful than the words he used in this revelation. The promise is real and as it says... it is **easy** and without **heaviness**. Forgiving the transgressions of others is the key to a quality filled, successful life. It might not be possible to clear our memory of past injustices against us but leave the judging and punishing to the Lord.

Mercy and forgiveness are God's way... it is to be our way also. Without ongoing forgiveness, we are all doomed to our mortality.