

# FORGIVENESS

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**Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

**What do we mean to forgive? Let us define by a present day definition, according to Webster Dictionary the word. Forgive means:**

- 1) To cease to feel resentment against an offender
- 2) To grant relief from a payment or a debt
- 3) To give up bitterness of or claim to requital

**SYNONYMS:** overlook, pardon, excuse. These verbs mean to refrain from imposing punishment on an offender or demanding satisfaction for an offense. These three can be used as conventional ways of offering apology. **More strictly, to forgive is to grant pardon without harboring resentment.**

The teaching of the Bible is very

clear about the teaching of forgiving. Yet today it seems as if there are many with an unforgiving spirit. This is not good! We are taught to forgive just as Christ forgave us our sins.

If there was ever a cause not to forgive, Jesus had it. However, He came to save us by forgiving us and paying the ransom for our sins. What was the price? Jesus paid with His shed blood, the laying down His life in death that our sins would be forgiven. The study of God's Word reveals no resentment or bitterness, no demand for restitution. He has granted full pardons. As I understand it, Jesus met all the requirements of Webster's definition for forgiveness.

Jesus, in teaching prayer in the Model prayer, instructed the disciples to pray like this:

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12.) Then in verses 14 and 15, Jesus gave

further instruction, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Mt 6:14-15) Pretty strong argument (reason) for us to be found with a forgiving spirit, and not only the spirit but be found "forgiving one another as He has forgiven us."

Consider this verse found in Luke Chapter 11 verse 4, as you think upon forgiveness: "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

Question? Have we come to the point of being able to forgive as we ought?

**Think upon this thought!  
May The Lord bless us that we will grow in the grace of forgiveness.**

*When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them;  
and sometimes, when you are safe and happy,  
remember that someone has prayed for you.*

# Meditating on Beautiful Words of Jesus

One of the greatest blessings we have on this earth as God's children is to have the word of God. It is good to commit to memory as many Scriptures as possible to help us in time of trouble. There are some Scriptures which bring great comfort and peace to our souls. I have been thinking about some of the words of Jesus which I think are some of the most beautiful words He ever spoke. You may have your own list, but think about the tremendous blessing of having the following words He spoke to help us in our journey here each day! Though there are many precious words in the word of God besides what Jesus spoke, we need to remember: "NEVER MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN!"

1. "It is finished" (John 19:30).
2. "Lo, I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20).

3. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).
4. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).
5. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).
6. "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my

words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

7. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).
8. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).
9. "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
10. "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

Though these are some of the first words that came to my mind, make your own list of what you feel are the most beautiful words Jesus ever spoke!

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## The Sting Removed

Frank Peretti gives an illustration about a bee in a car.

Imagine there's this family on vacation. It's a beautiful day. They are cruising down the highway. Sunny, warm day with the windows down. Everything's great. Suddenly, a big, old and black bee comes through the window and into the car. Bzzzzzz. The little girl, sitting in the back starts screaming. She's allergic to bees and if she is stung she could die in an hour. "Daddy, Daddy, there's a bee, there's a bee! He's going to sting me!" Dad in the front seat knows this is serious and is trying to slow down and get off the road. The bee is buzzing around the

car. "Daddy, Daddy I am scared! I'm scared! It's going to sting me!" With one hand Dad's driving and with the other hand, the Dad is trying to catch the bee... The bee lands for just a moment on the windshield. The dad pins it against the window and then cups it with his hand. It's in there! Bzzzzz. The Dad waits. Bzzzzzz. The Dad waits. Bzzzzz. Finally it happens, bam. Eoowww! The Dad opens his hand and let's the bee go. The little girl goes hysterical. "Daddy, Daddy its going to sting me! Its going to kill me!" "No, no, honey, it's not going to

sting you. Look, look what I have in my hand. He shows her his hand and right there in his palm is the big, nasty black stinger. Honey, he can't sting you because he stung me. He doesn't have a stinger. Sweetie, there is nothing to fear."

That is what Jesus did for us. He took the sting of death, and after the Cross He opens his palms to us and says, "Look at my scars. I took the sting for you", there is nothing to fear.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

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