

Steps to New Life

Why do I have to forgive others?

How can you enjoy your life in Christ if you can't get over wrongs done against you? Our life as Christians began by being forgiven for all of our past wrongs. God has wiped our slate clean! Now, He wants us to do the exact same thing for others.

Let these 7 reasons motivate you!

1. **Jesus commands it.** It is *not* an option or a request! He expects you to do it.
2. **It is the right thing to do.** It may *feel* wrong, but it *is* right. Giving the person and their sin to God puts them into His hands and He will do the right thing by way of both justice and mercy.
3. **Your freedom requires it.** The *only* way to get free of your past is to forgive everyone—from the heart.
4. **Their ignorance of the whole truth.** Everyone who sins has been deceived by an enemy—their enemy and yours.
5. **You have forgotten the truth.** Our unrighteous indignation keeps us blind that:
 - a) Our own sins deserve hell.
 - b) Jesus says judging is the worst sin.
6. **Get compassion for them.** Only hurt people hurt other people. That's how the enemy works through all of us.
7. **Let Jesus receive His inheritance.** Jesus died to get them into heaven! Don't deny Him what His suffering deserves.

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Scriptures

"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25 ESV

The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but be gentle towards all, able to teach, patient, in gentleness correcting those who oppose him: perhaps God may give them repentance leading to a full knowledge of the truth, and they may recover themselves out of the devil's snare, having been taken captive by him to his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 WEB

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28-29 ESV



Prayers

Father, I have been fighting to hold on to my angry judgments and ignoring or resisting Your command to forgive. It is no wonder my life feels stuck. Forgive me! Thank You for Your patience with me. Help me to become a faithful child and to do the forgiving that will get my life moving forward again.

Jesus, You went to the cross so that I could be forgiven, but You also suffered for the ones I have been refusing to forgive. I have been doing the exact opposite of what You did. That's why I have no peace! Forgive me and help me to be faithful to You.

Holy Spirit, with Your help I now choose by an act of my will to fully forgive ___ and to release ___ from all my bitter judgments. I'm giving the pain to You, the injustice to You and this person to You—and I'm trusting You with it all!



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