

# Forgiveness for Free!

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**1** Anything *free* gets our attention—but little value is placed on something free. Since everyone has *sinned* everyone *needs* forgiveness to enter eternal life.

**2** Receiving forgiveness includes offering forgiveness to others. AV **Matthew 6:14** “*If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*”

**3** It’s easy to *accept* forgiveness but seems difficult to *extend* it—but withholding excuses no one.

**4** WEY **Romans 5:8** “*God gives proof of His love to us in Christ’s dying for us while we were still sinners.*” Forgiveness for Free—just ask God and extend the same to anyone.

**5** The world is full of resentment and rage—daily reports of assaults on individuals; conflicts among groups; and violent acts of revenge on a constant basis.

**6** All this is opposite what Jesus taught—and He did not qualify *what* to forgive—just forgive everyone—because **Matthew 6:15** “*If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*”

**7** We all fail to meet God’s righteous standard; we all make many mistakes; and we all would stand before Him guilty unless we can somehow be forgiven.

**8** That makes our willingness to forgive every one of every injustice of paramount

importance. If we forgive, God forgives—*simple* in theory—*difficult* in practice.

**9** Our first nature does not want to forgive anyone of anything—but only to avenge everyone of anything done against us.

**10** To hold *any* resentment toward *anyone* for *any* reason is to keep a *very serious sin* in our heart—one that *could* destroy us—unless...

**11** When we deny extending forgiveness, we feel the guilt and try to justify why we deny extending forgiveness.

**12** Withholding forgiveness denies the validity of God’s Word NIV **Ephesians 4:32** “*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*”

**13** That is plain and profound in stating God loves us and sent His Son for us. God loves us *that much* and He forgives us *that often*.

**14** He offers us free entrance into His kingdom by *repenting* and *accepting* His Son into our heart—as Lord and Master.

**15** The most important Commandment is the moral standard of our life. AV **Deuteronomy 6:5** “*Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*”

**16** Everything else we do, decide, and deny proceeds from that standard.

**17** Several times we are told to love God—**Matthew 22:37**; **Mark 12:30** adds *strength*; **Luke 10:27** includes *strength* and adds *neighbor*. Love is the basis of it all.

**18** Forgiveness for free if we freely forgive—and AV **John 14:15** “*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*”

**19** We say, *I forgive them; I don’t hold any resentment against them—but* might also say, *This wrong they did will come back on them.*

**20** Having such thoughts is evidence of having resentment against them. We have *not* forgiven them if we are waiting for *justice* to be served.

**21** For the world, revenge is popular—forgiving is not. The deadly force used against people; despicable crimes; physical and emotional abuse; and the horrible acts of violence against people has us say, *How could anyone forgive what they did?*

**22** And Jesus reminds “*If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you*” **Matthew 6:14** TEV.

**23** We *have* to forgive every wrong ever done to us. Forgiving allows God to extend His forgiveness to us.

**24** We are *willing* to forgive people because God is willing to forgive us. *God, be merciful to me a sinner.*

**25** NIV **Exodus 34:6** “*The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love.*”

**26** Adam and Eve committed the first sin, but God was ready to forgive; He forgave Moses and Israel when they sinned again and again. The history of Israel is a testimony of God’s mercy, love, and grace.

**27** We have no excuse *not* to forgive someone when Jesus willingly went to the cross in our place; endured an agonizing death; and endured excruciating pain so He could offer forgiveness for free to us!

**28** To be like Jesus; we forgive like Jesus. It is not a matter of who is right or who is wrong—what matters is who will *forgive* when they are *wronged*.

**29** The apostle asked, how many times should he forgive someone? Is seven times enough? Jesus said **Matthew 18:21** “*No, Seventy times seven.*”

**30** Jesus then tells a parable. NLT **Matthew 18:23** “*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.*”

**31** The man was not able to pay, so the king ordered that everything the servant owned including his family should be sold and the debt paid off.

**32** NCV 26-27 *"The servant fell on his knees and begged, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.' The master felt sorry for his servant and told him he did not have to pay it back."*

**33** The king forgives the man of the entire debt—he totally erased it. The king represents **God** and the servant represents **us**. God is willing to forgive us of a million sins if we repent and forgive as the king did.

**34** Vs 28-30 *"Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him \$20 dollars. The servant grabbed him around the neck and said, 'Pay me the money you owe me!'"*

**35** *The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.'" He refused and had him jailed.*

**36** This servant was released from a million-dollar debt, but instead of being grateful, he finds the servant who owed him a few dollars and demands that he pay it.

**37** That is so wrong, and it reminds us that **we** have *no right* to withhold *forgiveness* from *anyone* since Jesus forgives our huge sin debt for free by request and repentance. It's time to reflect on our attitudes.

**38** **Unconditional Love:** The Prodigal Son Luke 15 helps us understand God's thoughts toward us when we sin. God is waiting to *forgive* if we will *repent*.

**39** After running out of money, the son accepts a job tending swine. This illustrates that no matter how far we have fallen; how unworthy we feel; or how deliberately we have sinned—God still forgives if we repent and turn back to Him.

**40** The Prodigal offers no excuses for his terrible mistakes and unscriptural decisions, but his father immediately forgives him because of *his love* for him.

**41** We can offer no excuses for God to forgive us either, but He does anyway because of *His love* for us.

**42** God's Word still stands and His love for us remains.

**43** NKJV Ephesians 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."* And this forgiveness **8** *abounds toward us."*

**44** It does not matter how serious the sin; how often the failure; God forgives when we repent and forgive others.

**45** **Ultimate forgiveness:** The worst crime anyone could commit was committed against God's Son.

**46** This horrible travesty of justice was done at a time when Jesus came to earth to *forgive* everyone.

**47** No crime could be more serious or wicked—yet when suffering terrible agony, Jesus says, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* Luke 23:34.

**48** The *seriousness* of our sin and the *amount* of our wrongs does not forfeit forgiveness—the murder of the Messiah was forgivable.

**49** The thief on the cross had a laundry list of sins, but after saying AV Luke 23:42 *"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom"* he was told **43** *"To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."*

**50** Because of His mercy, love, and grace, God freely gives His Holy Spirit to anyone who wants to *know* of their mistakes.

**51** God then enables us to repent and even helps us to forsake those sins—not going back to them.

**52** No matter how *many*; how *serious*; or how *obvious* our sins may be, Jesus **still forgives** because God **still loves** us.

**53** Satan tries to have us hold resentment and not forgive someone—because he knows *"If we do not forgive others when they offend us, neither will God forgive us."*

**54** Satan wants to *cancel* our forgiveness, so we must be aware that resentment does not just go away, nor will *time* heal the hurt—**Jesus** forgives; **time** cannot.

**55** Saying, *I don't care what they did*, solves little. No matter what anyone has said or done to us, we have to separate the wrong from the person.

**56** We ask God to take the hurt out of our heart and help us to forget what took place. To *forgive* is to *pray* for them—not *resent* them.

**57** There is a difference in *saying* we forgive and really *forgiving*. We have to first say: *They know not what they do* and then be willing to forgive in our heart.

**58** If we wait until asked to be forgiven, we could wait forever—we just forgive because God said to.

**59** **An Offer Anyone Can Accept:** Forgiveness for Free and being free to forgive others—even if it is the *same* offense from the *same* individual again and again.

**60** To forgive *seventy times seven times* means to **never stop** forgiving because God **never stops loving and forgiving us**.

**61** We are redeemed by AV 1 Peter 1:19 *"The precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* Forgiveness is **still free**; repentance is **still necessary**; and Heaven is **still available**.

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