

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF FORGIVENESS?

“He who cannot forgive others
breaks the **bridge over** which
he must pass himself.”
(George Herbert)

NOTE: In this tract, we have restored the True Names of the Heavenly Father, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua, the Messiah (*John 5:43*). When you say HalleluYah, you see the Yah. What is in a Name? More than just labels, names in Scripture tell us about the individual. Nowhere is this more important than in the personal, revealed Name of our Creator. As it did with Israel, His name closely bonds True Worshipers to Him as their personal Heavenly Father, and is the key that unlocks deeper knowledge and understanding (*Proverbs 30:4*). Contrary to popular belief, the Father’s Name is not “Jehovah” [hovah #1943: another form for #1942; ruin:-mischief], and neither is the Son’s Name “Jesus”. The letter “J” did not come into existence until the 17th century; look in any dictionary under “J”. The Savior was a Hebrew, so why would they give Him a Greek Latinized name? Yahshua revealed His name: Acts 26:14-15. He spoke in the Hebrew tongue not Greek. (All Scripture is quoted from the King James version. All #'s recorded are from Strong’s Concordance and notes where stated from Lexical Aids.)

We encourage each reader to prove Scripturally for himself what he reads here:

1 Thessalonians 5:21 *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

1. “What is the meaning of Forgiveness?”

Forgiveness means: absolution, pardon the acts of absolving or pardoning; the state of being pardoned. “Forgiveness is indeed, man’s involvement both in conscience and deed; it is necessary for receiving divine forgiveness. It is not enough to hope and pray for pardon; man must humble himself, acknowledge his wrong and resolve to depart from sin.” (Adapted by Encyclopedia Judaica).

Are you having a tough time, at the moment, trying to forgive people who have caused some hurtful offense? Or maybe a string of conflicts that have continued unresolved in you life? In the believer’s life, forgiveness is not an elective that you choose or pass up. Forgiveness is part of the required course that Yahweh gives to every believer.

2. "What is the meaning of unforgiveness?"

The meaning of unforgiveness is not treating a person with kindness, who has wronged you. When someone hurts us by words or actions, a lot of people hold these hurts throughout their life and the same problems occur over and over again. Their unforgiveness holds them in captivity by the very thing they refuse to forgive.

Unforgiveness is the root of anger, control and mistrust. The controller holds on to the past hurts, and keeps a record of wrongs. If we nurse anger and hold within us deep resentment, unforgiveness, we become a target for Satan to attack us with these characters and infirmities: Stress, depression, fear, jealousy, worry and deep resentment can predispose our body to ailments and disease.

What if you had an open wound and every time it started to heal over, you broke it open again? It would be impossible for the wound to close over and heal, as you stew and fret over how you have been wronged, the wound is seen deeper. Yet, if you would forgive those who did you wrong, then the matter would be ended and forgotten.

There was a couple, where the husband was in a car accident, which caused him to have a change in his character. There was a lot of stress in their marriage and turmoil due to that change. It took five years to find out that he had a silent brain injury from the whiplash. His wife decided to go on a retreat to deal with the problem. Satan had planted the thought in her mind that she was either going to stay with him or leave him after that weekend. At this time, she was not aware of the silent brain injury. Her heart's desire for the weekend was to receive, wisdom, understanding, unconditional love and forgiveness. The weekend retreat focused on the suffering of Yahshua. As she opened the Scriptures, which were quite foreign to her, she opened to Wisdom. Somehow she knew that she was going to get answered prayer that weekend. As the weekend unfolded, Yahweh's Spirit said to her, "My Son died on the stake for your sins, what price are you willing to pay for your marriage?" The living sacrifice she would have to make was to die to her selfishness, and letting go of her pride, in order to forgive. The revelation she also received from Yahweh was: the hurt that her husband had caused her, was it as great a pain and suffering that she caused her Savior, for her sins, that sent Him to the stake? Thinking of the torture and pain that He endured for her grieved her heart.

Forgiveness would be so easy to do, if only we kept that mindset. How we forget what we did to Yahshua and how easily we hold a grudge, blame others when they hurt us!

The lady realized she had to start rebuilding her marriage and that took work on her part. It was giving 100% and not expecting anything back. Taking her husband into account involved acknowledging his anatomy, individuality, uniqueness, and the truth of who he is without judgment. She had to put aside her opinions, ideas, expectations and had to begin to appreciate and show respect for the essential qualities he possessed. She had to focus on his strengths, weaknesses, talents, barriers and observe what it was like to be him at that time. In the flesh-body-

she was angry and despised him: however, Yahweh allowed her to see her husband through Yahshua's eyes. He helped her to rekindle her love for him once again.

O dear friends, when someone offends us, treats us with cruelty, let us pray that we see them through Yahshua's eyes, before they even ask forgiveness or not ask at all, let us say what He said at the stake, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." We will feel such a freedom from our forgiving heart. "What you sow is what you will reap" is an old familiar saying. If you refuse to forgive, you will not be forgiven. If you are living an unhappy life, ask yourself who you are holding in bondage, forgive them and you will be set free.

3. "Do you know why we forgive and how to actually do it?"

If you will apply the principles you are about to learn, your relationship can be restored to experience the oneness in your marriage, as well as having companionship in your relationship with people you once knew. Let us begin by looking at why we must forgive.

4. "Why should we forgive?"

Because it is Yahweh's command. Many people think that somehow forgiveness is merely an option they have available to them, something they can take or leave. Forgiveness is giving up my right to hurt you when you have hurt me. Some people say, "I can forgive, but I won't forget." Forgiveness doesn't mean forget: it means abandon, to release the debt. The Word of Yahweh declares that you must forgive any and all who offend you.

Yahshua said, "...forgive, if ye have ought against another..." (*Mark 11:25, Colossians 3:13*) (Emphasis mine). Therefore it is clear that forgiveness is not an option, but a definite command and responsibility for every believer who has been offended.

5. "What are the conditions of Forgiveness?"

Dakes: "[Yahshua] recognized that there are conditions to be fulfilled before forgiveness can be granted. Forgiveness is part of a mutual relationship the other part is the repentance of the offender..[Yahweh does not forgive without repentance, nor is it required of man. The effect of forgiveness is to restore to its former state the relationship that was broken by sin. Such restoration requires the co-operation of both parties. These must be a granting and an acceptance of the forgiveness, since, deep felt sorrow for the wrong which works repentance."

2 Corinthians 2:10. "*To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of the Messiah;*"

It is the condition of the mind, which ensures the acceptance of the forgiveness.

6. "If I don't forgive, do I have the right to ask Yahweh to forgive me?"

Dakes: "[Yahweh's] forgiveness is conditional upon man's forgiveness of the wrongs done him, not because Yahweh forgives grudgingly, but forgiveness alone indicates that disposition

of mind which will humbly accept the Divine pardon.”

Matthew 6:12, “*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*”

Here is a promise: if you forgive, your Heavenly Father will also forgive. We must forgive, as we hope to be forgiven. Those who desire to find mercy with Yahweh, show mercy to their brethren. If at this moment you can think of any one that you have ill thoughts about, then, my friend, you are an unrepentant sinner and need to reconcile with Yahweh by Yahshua’ blood and deal with your unforgiveness as Yahweh will not forgive your trespasses.

Mark 11:26, “*But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*”

7. “What happens when I don’t forgive?”

A. You become the real loser. You lose the fellowship and closeness in your relations with Yahweh. When you refuse to forgive, Yahweh refuses to forgive you.

B. Unforgiveness robs you of peace and joy. You cannot love while at the same time holding resentment. One that has an unforgiving spirit is merely one that refuses to repent.

8. “How can I actually forgive?”

A. Ask Yahweh to open your eyes to your own sin. Many times the real problem with unforgiveness is self-righteousness. We think, “How could he or she have done this to me?” Forgetting that we also have sinned against others many times. Once you see the plank in your own eye, your attitude toward others will change dramatically. If you expect Yahweh to forgive you, then He expects you to forgive others.

B. Ask Yahweh for a willing heart. Many times the reason we do not forgive is that we do not have a willing heart. You would rather nurse the resentments and punish people for their offense. When you do this your heart grows harder and your willingness to forgive decreases with each occurrence. One you see your own sin, you need to ask Yahweh for a willing heart to forgive.

9. “How do I choose to obey His command?”

When you become tender-hearted, willing to forgive, what only remains is that choice to do it.

A. Determine to make a promise.

Hebrews 8:12, “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*”

When He forgive you, He promises He promises He will never recount or mention your sins, in a mental grasp, to use at a time later. Once confession is made we must confess our sins in

order for His forgiveness of promise to take effect. When you forgive you must do the same.

The Scripture doesn't require someone to merely say, "I'm sorry", or "I apologize". Apologize means: and excuse; something said or written in defense. Being sorry is only half of the reconciliation process. You can be sorry that the problem has occurred, but sorry must be coupled with a request for forgiveness and repentance. When you ask for someone's forgiveness, you are asking this individual to make a choice to obey Yahweh's command and to make the same promise to you as I described above. This is much more than a simple acknowledgment that you are so sorry. So many say "I'm sorry," then make the excuse why they did it. That is not asking forgiveness; that is saying, "I didn't make a mistake, but I'll say I'm sorry, because you think I did something wrong." There is no accountability on your part to the offense that this man/woman feels because of your actions. You are still blaming them, because you have to say you are sorry. That spells pride. When we have done wrong we must ask Yahweh's forgiveness, then ask the offending party and say, "I am sorry, for (state the offense, sin), will you please forgive me?" and the response is, "Yes, I forgive you." If the man/woman refuses to forgive you, then you have done your part, now he/she is the one that will be held in bondage. The unforgiveness they hold against you, they will live in their own life, as this is the consequence for unforgiveness.

James 5:16. *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

Here we have a command to confess our faults, offenses, to one another.

Written by inspiration of Yahweh Psalms 115:1 for His saints. (Author Unknown)

Psalms 115:1

"Not unto us, O Yahweh, not unto us, but unto thy name give honour, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."