

“THE GRUDGE: THE FAITH TO FORGIVE”

1. IN LIFE, THE BEST THINGS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DIFFICULT THINGS.

And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! ³Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him ⁴and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” ⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” (Luke 17:1, 3-5)

A. **REBUKE: LET’S DEAL WITH IT BIBLICALLY.** (Matthew 7:1-5 and Ephesians 4:15)

B. **FORGIVE: THE GOAL IS RECONCILIATION.** (Matthew 18:15-20)

C. **FAITH: LORD, HELP US!**

2. WHO BETRAYED YOU? WHO SINNED AGAINST YOU?

A. **WITHOUT A DOUBT, SCRIPTURE SAYS, “FORGIVE”.**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” (Matthew 5:43-44)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)

B. **FORGIVENESS IS NOT...**

- **FORGETTING**
- **FAIR**

C. **GOD IS NOT FAIR EITHER. HE IS ALWAYS JUST.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; (Psalm 103:10-11)

Memory Verse

as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
(Psalm 103:12)

3. FORGIVENESS IS OFFERING OTHERS THE GRACE GOD OFFERS YOU.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12)

A. **JESUS’ DEATH SETS YOU FREE FROM SIN.**

B. **FORGIVING OTHERS KEEPS YOU FREE.**

GOING DEEPER IN THE HOME

1. Read Ephesians 4:32. What are some ways God’s forgiveness has affected your life?

2. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power. As an example: *Father, thank You for the forgiveness You've offered each of us. Help us never to forget the love You've shown us. Give us the faith we need to extend that same love to others through forgiveness. In Jesus' name, Amen.*
3. If God is calling you to forgive someone, take that step. If you're not ready to forgive someone yet, ask God to give you the faith you need to take that step.