

# The Challenge of Forgiveness

The New Testament Challenge, Part 6

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*“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No!’ Jesus replied, ‘seventy times seven!’”*  
– Matthew 18:22

## **FORGIVING OTHERS IS NOT:**

- Justifying their actions.
- Denying that you’re hurt.
- Confronting them personally.
- Trusting them again automatically

## **4 NEW TESTAMENT STEPS TO FORGIVE OTHERS...**

### **REMEMBER HOW MUCH I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.**

*“He has forgiven all your sins; He has utterly wiped out the evidence of broken commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it to the cross.”* – Colossians 2:13-14

*“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”*  
– 1 John 1:9

*each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*  
Acts 2:38

### **REFLECT ON WHO I NEED TO FORGIVE .**

*“Come to terms quickly with your enemy before it is too late .* Matthew 5:25-26

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”*  
– Psalm 139:3-4

## **RELEASE THE OTHER PERSON.**

*“Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison until he had paid every penny.’ That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters in your heart.”*  
– Matthew 18:32-35

**\*Releasing someone means to...**

**Forgive instantly.**

**Forgive completely.**

**Forgive freely.**

**Forgive repeatedly.**

## **RE-ESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIP.**

(as much as possible)

*“Do your part to live in peace with everyone,  
as much as possible.”*  
– Romans 12:18

*Would reconciling...*

*Improve my life or hurt it?*

*Improve the other person?*

*Improve my relationship with my family, friends or co-workers?*

*“Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”*  
– 2 Corinthians 3:17

### **Memory Verse**

*“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you.  
Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*  
– Colossians 3:13