

# THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

*A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.*

## FORGIVENESS

*The Hebrew & Greek words for "forgiveness" mean "to give away the power or right completely and without reservation."*

*Synonyms could be: pardon, release, freedom. IT DOES NOT MEAN TO FORGET, TO EXCUSE, OR TO CONDONE.*

*To forgive is a deliberate decision to release your hurt feelings, your resentment or plans for vengeance against someone even if they do not deserve it.*

1. Have you been hurt or offended by someone in your past?  Yes  No
  2. Have you forgiven that person as of this point in time?  Yes  No
  3. Is it possible for a man in his own strength to forgive?  Yes  No
  4. Why do you think people would rather not forgive, but instead carry that load of bitterness around for years? \_\_\_\_\_
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### HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY FORGIVE ANYONE?

*Luke 5:20      When Jesus saw the faith of the paralyzed man, He said, "Your sins are forgiven".*  
*Ephesians 1:7    In Christ we have the redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to His rich grace.*  
*Psalms 130:3-4    If You, LORD, forever recorded & kept track of our sins, who could live and have a future. NO ONE! But, Lord, all you want to do is forgive me, love me & hold me tight forever.*

5. Does God expect us to do something (forgive others) that He has not been willing to do for us when He rescued us from a hopeless & endless Hell?  Yes  No
6. Should we think that forgiving others for insignificant matters is harder than when God forgave us (man) for rejecting Jesus & choosing sin?  Yes  No

**BOTTOM LINE #1 - WE CAN FORGIVE BECAUSE GOD WILLINGLY FORGAVE US.**  
**BOTTOM LINE #2 - GOD CONTINUES FORGIVING US EVERY SINGLE DAY.**

*Psalms 86:5      For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.*

7. How does King David describe God in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_
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*Luke 6:37      Mankind? Don't declare a guilty verdict on others. God is certainly not going to continually throw a guilty verdict in your face your whole life. Mankind? Don't condemn others & decide what they deserve. God is certainly not going to rub in your face everything you deserve your whole life. Mankind? Don't decide who is entitled to your forgiveness & who is not. God is certainly not going to keep reminding you that you do not deserve His forgiveness now or forever.*

8. The Luke 6:37 verse mentioned above is powerful. It is a paraphrase of what is happening in my heart when I read it. How does it affect you?

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Luke 23:34 (Jesus on the cross) Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.

9. Do you think you could get ever to the place where you could forgive someone because they did not know what they were doing?  Yes  No
10. Could you forgive them if they knew what they were doing?  Yes  No
11. Can you be sure that in their life, they had it all together?  Yes  No
12. Was their offence at you worth hating them all your life?  Yes  No
13. Is your life happy withholding forgiveness from this person?  Yes  No

### Who are we supposed to forgive?

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God through Christ also has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:12-13 Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another, and forgiving each other:

14. Since both these verses are in letters from Paul sent to churches, can we assume that the people he is talking to are probably believers?  Yes  No
15. Since forgiving someone is a decision, you might not want to forgive this person. Can you forgive someone yet not want a close relationship?  Yes  No  
Would you explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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16. Why would Paul have to tell believers in the church to be kind, humble, gentle, compassionate, and patient with each other plus be forgiving?

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Matthew 5:44-45 Jesus said - love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may demonstrate being sons of your Father Who is in heaven;

Luke 6:27-28 Jesus said - but I say to you who are listening, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

17. According to these verses, what do enemies do to us?

P\_\_\_\_\_ you, H\_\_\_\_\_ you, C\_\_\_\_\_ you, M\_\_\_\_\_ you

18. What are we supposed to do to our enemies? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Is it possible that you might hate your enemies?  Yes  No

20. Do you see "forgiveness" in these verses even though the word is not there? What words might indicate forgiveness happening in your heart for your enemies?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ for those who persecute you
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ to those who hate you
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ those who curse you
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ for those who mistreat you

**Making a decision to forgive someone might come before you can do the things listed to the left here.**

**If the person is dead, you will only be able to decide to forgive in your heart.**

**The "Justice of God" sees what I did and declares me guilty.  
The "Mercy of God" sees what I did and declares me forgiven.**

21. Is it possible that the person who offended you could have experienced God's mercy and since been forgiven?  Yes  No
22. If God has forgiven your offender, would you be willing to ask God to give you the strength and courage to also forgive your offender?  Yes  No

*Psalm 139:13-14 For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made marvelous are Your works,...*

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ...."*

23. Since you and I are incredibly made, and are a special creation that pleases God, could your offender also be incredible & please God?  Yes  No
24. Could you make a decision to forgive someone special to God?  Yes  No
25. In the sight of God, is your offender a worse person than you?  Yes  No
26. In the sight of God, does your offender need forgiveness?  Yes  No

*If "worship" means valuing the things that God values, and if "forgiving" is a form of worship, then "forgiving" is valuing the things that God values.*

27. Were you too awful a person for God to forgive?  Yes  No
28. Is your offender too evil for you to forgive (God has forgiven him)  Yes  No

*If the word "forgive" also means "to transfer the load to another", when you forgive someone, are you not telling God that you trust Him to handle it from here? God is working in your heart & life. God is working in your offender's heart & life.*

### **A VERY STRANGE STATEMENT**

*Matthew 6:14-15 Jesus said - if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

*"Trespass" means "while walking along the road, to slip off on the side". "Trespasses" are the sins along the way in our lives. God wants to forgive us - He says "I love you". We are grateful to be forgiven - we say "thank you". We are close to each other.*

*If we do not forgive others, God is grieved that we have forgotten how special our forgiveness by Him is to us. We cannot enjoy His tenderness & closeness when we shut off our forgiveness to others. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING A BELIEVER. WE ARE A BELIEVER REGARDLESS.*

### **Jesus has some final words to say.**

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| 1. You who mocked Me & beat Me (Lk. 22:63)           | I forgive you. |
| 2. You who struck Me & spit in My face (Lk. 22:64)   | I forgive you. |
| 3. You who said blasphemous words to me (Lk. 22:65)  | I forgive you. |
| 4. You who put the crown of thorns on Me (Lk. 27:29) | I forgive you. |
| 5. You who stripped off my clothes (Mt. 27:28)       | I forgive you. |
| 6. You who drove the nails into Me (Mt. 27:31,35)    | I forgive you. |
| 7. You who made Me carry the cross (Jn. 19:17)       | I forgive you. |
| 8. You who stabbed Me with the sword (Jn. 19:34)     | I forgive you. |