

# #11

## Forgiveness

We can receive forgiveness from God and we can give forgiveness to others. As you shall see in the texts below, we need both. We need to receive God's forgiveness and we need to forgive others. If we are not willing to do both of these, we have no hope.

### Jesus & God Forgive

**Micah 7:18-19** – <sup>18</sup> Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. <sup>19</sup> He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

**Matthew 9:4-6** – <sup>4</sup> And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? <sup>6</sup> But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. (See also Mark 2:10 and Luke 5:24)

**Colossians 1:12-14** – <sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: <sup>13</sup> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: <sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

**Ephesians 1:6-7** – <sup>6</sup> To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. <sup>7</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Acts 5:29-31** – <sup>29</sup> Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. <sup>31</sup> Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

**Acts 26:15-18** – <sup>15</sup> And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. <sup>16</sup> But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; <sup>17</sup> Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, <sup>18</sup> To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

### We Need To Confess And Ask For Forgiveness

**Psalm 32:5** – I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will

confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

**1 John 1:9** – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Daniel 9:4-9** – <sup>4</sup> And I [Daniel] prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; <sup>5</sup> We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: <sup>6</sup> Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. <sup>7</sup> O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. <sup>8</sup> O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. <sup>9</sup> To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

## **Our Duty To Forgive**

**Luke 6:37** – Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

**Ephesians 4:32** – And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Colossians 3:13** – Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

## **How Many Times Should We Forgive?**

**Luke 17:3-4** – <sup>3</sup> Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

**Matthew 18:21-22** – <sup>21</sup> Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? <sup>22</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

## **What Happens If We Don't Forgive?**

**Matthew 6:14-15** – <sup>14</sup> For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup> But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Mark 11:25-26** – <sup>25</sup> And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your

Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup> But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

**Matthew 18:23-35** – <sup>23</sup> Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. <sup>24</sup> And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. <sup>27</sup> Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. <sup>29</sup> And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. <sup>30</sup> And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: <sup>33</sup> Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? <sup>34</sup> And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. <sup>35</sup> So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

## The Unforgivable Sin

**Luke 12:10** – And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

**Mark 3:29** – But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

## Summary

God forgives us when we repent and ask for forgiveness. We are also commanded by God to forgive others. Jesus stated: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." ( Matthew 6:14-15)

Jesus said that our forgiveness should be continual on an ongoing basis. When Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone, Jesus answered seventy times seven. Jesus meant that there should be no end to our forgiveness. The good news is that this is a reflection of the infinite forgiveness that our Father in heaven has for us when we truly repent and confess our sins.

Sometimes forgiving others can be near impossible. How do you forgive someone who has done something truly horrible like killing a member of your family? It begins with being willing to forgive; then confessing your unforgiveness and finally, asking for help from your Father in heaven. Our Father will answer your prayers and perform a miracle in your heart.

Sometimes when we pray for help, God answers immediately. Sometimes he answers prayer over time. In either case, God answers our prayer. It is impossible to know why God answers prayer in different ways at different times except that he does it for our benefit.

God is the alpha and omega. The beginning and the end. He knows all things past, present and future. He has promised: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:29)