

The Call to Forgiveness

PART 2



Forgiving Others

Jesus spent a great deal of time talking and teaching about the importance of forgiving others. He made it clear that forgiveness is to be a characteristic of His followers. So let's explore what it means to forgive others, the benefits of forgiving and how to forgive.

A. Forgiveness is Spiritual Warfare – Hebrews 12:15

Unforgiveness is like an untreated wound. It may start as a painful moment, but if we keep reopening it, healing can't happen. Instead, it becomes infected spiritually and emotionally.

Wounds left open get exposed to "dirty air" — just like hearts left in unforgiveness.

That spiritual infection invites unclean spirits and opens doors to deeper pain.

Without healing, it can lead to:

- Demonic harassment
- Emotional torment
- Bitterness and unhappiness

Forgiveness is key to your freedom and healing. – **Matthew 6:15**

Unforgiveness keeps you in bondage.

Forgiving others invites God to begin healing your soul.

It removes the barrier between you and God—your source of healing.

Holding onto unforgiveness blocks your forgiveness.

B. The Steep Price of Unforgiveness

Unforgiveness is a major source of spiritual bondage—especially among both believers and unbelievers.

Many people are unaware that harboring unforgiveness opens the door to spiritual oppression. Jesus warned us about this in Matthew 18:23–35, and yet it remains one of the most common ways the enemy gains access to our lives.

Unforgiveness invites demonic harassment.

The enemy uses bitterness and unforgiveness as legal grounds to torment and oppress. It's not just emotional—it's spiritual.

It blocks God's forgiveness.

When we refuse to forgive others, God withholds His forgiveness from us (Matthew 6:15). This keeps us in a state of spiritual separation and judgment.

God sees our sin when we harbor unforgiveness.

Even when we cry out for help, if bitterness remains in our hearts, our own sins remain uncovered before God (Acts 8:23).

Bitterness spiritually defiles us.

It pollutes the heart and leads to a contaminated spiritual life, even in born-again believers (Hebrews 12:15). Bitterness spreads and affects every area of life if not uprooted.

Spiritual cleanliness requires forgiveness.

True freedom and holiness begin when we release others and allow God to purify our hearts.

C. Give to God the Things that Belong to Him

Unforgiveness is taking justice into our own hands—and that's not our job.

God never asked us to carry out revenge. Instead, He calls us to forgive and trust Him with the outcome.

Unforgiveness is trying to do God's job.

When we hold on to offense, we are stepping into a role that belongs to God alone.

Romans 12:19

We must give God room to act.

Holding on to bitterness means there's no space for God to move. Forgiveness creates room for His justice.

Forgiving someone doesn't mean they escape consequences.

You may release them from your judgment, but they are still accountable to God's.

Galatians 6:7

Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting or excusing the hurt—it means trusting God to handle it His way. When you forgive, you're not letting them get away with it—you're putting it in God's hands.