

FORGIVENESS PRINCIPLES

An event and a process

Mark 11:23-5; Matthew 6:14-15

Ask God, “Whom have I not forgiven?”

*(Wait for God to **bring you** a name or a face. Go with the first name you see or hear - don't ask yourself)*

Remember “God, help me to see what I feel this person has stolen from me or what I think he/she owes me?” *(Write down this list - it is important to know what you are thinking about the person, so that you can identify the specific thoughts/actions that need to be released and forgiven.)*

Recognize God's grace is continually being extended to you, as you ask Him to forgive you when you sin against Him and others. Praise God for who you are, as His child - you are dead to self and fully alive in Him. *(This gives you God's perspective on the offense and empowers you with the will to forgive from your heart. Whenever it becomes hard again to forgive, return to this principle. It is out of experiencing God's grace that we have the power to extend grace.)*

Repent of your sin of bitterness towards the person. If needed, renounce any lies that you have lived in agreement with and break the power of evil spirits that might have gained access to your life through un-forgiveness, retaliation, revenge, anger or hatred. *(Commit to asking the person to forgive you if you have responded poorly to the offense and they are aware of your sinful response)*

Release the person from every debt. Tell God that you choose to forgive the person who hurt you. *(Working through your detailed list, release the person from every offense and expectation. Deliberately hand them over to God so His mercy is poured out.)*

Ask God to forgive them as well, to not hold their sin against them, but rather to bless them with His mercy, grace and compassion!

Rejoice in God's forgiving power released in you today! Rejoice in God's transforming power at work within the person you forgave!