

FORGIVENESS

We can stop forgiving others when Yeshua stops forgiving us.

What is forgiveness?

It is the willingness to change your attitude about an existing relationship that is bad. **Forgiveness is an act of your free will, not an emotion.** You will never stop the pain and agony in your heart until you have forgiven all. You will not and can not live a good life if you refuse to forgive. This agony of unforgiveness is known only to the one who refuses to believe in Adonai. Forgiveness is the power that breaks the chains of bitterness. Forgiveness is not an option for a Believer, it is a must. It is faith with works.

One of the problems with people who forgive and forget is that they so often remind us. Forgiveness is the key to absolute freedom. There are 62 words in the Renewed Testament that are used for forgiveness and 22 times these words are used for forgiving others. If you have revenge on your mind, if you are waiting for that golden opportunity of revenge, then you will always be tormented until you release it. Remember **Eccl. 10:1** **"Dead flies will cause even a bottle of perfume to stink"** Some of the last words Yeshua said on the stake were to ask his Father to forgive those who were responsible for his crucifixion. In **Matt. 6:14** it states **"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins"**. It is your choice, either you forgive those who have wronged you or you will not be forgiven. The door swings both ways. You cannot ever receive the blessings of Abraham that Yah has waiting for you until you totally and truly forgive all those that have caused you pain, suffering, humiliation, etc.

To forgive is not an easy thing to do but it must be done, you must forgive everyone of everything to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. We can stop forgiving others when



Messiah stops forgiving us. **Ps. 27:10**

"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close" It doesn't work one way. It is not possible to fool Adonai, for He knows your every thought and all your actions before you even commit them. Your friends, relatives, neighbors; you may fool them all, but you can't fool Adonai, so don't waste His time and your time trying. Forgiveness is walking out of an emotional hell and living in the very gates of heaven. Forgiveness is what Yeshua made possible when He died on that stake at Calvary. Think about it;

Yeshua was stripped naked, he then got spit on, stomped on, kicked and humiliated before He got whipped 39 times and more with the "cat of nine tails" until chunks of flesh tore off His body. He had a spear tare a hole open in His side, a crown of thorns punctured His head. He was covered with blood from one end of His body to the other. Then He got tied to a tree and had spikes driven through His wrists, there He hung until

He died. It's not a pretty picture, it's not the picture that many want you to imagine, it's not the picture artists have captured, but it is the truth. Yeshua was tortured and tormented at Calvary, not just lashed and crucified.

Picture this if you will, after Yeshua Hamashiach rose from the dead He descended into Hades (Hell). He grabbed Satan by the hair, dragged him through Hades and showed all Satan's fallen angels just who was in control. He humiliated Satan in front of all of the demon spirits there and He pronounced clearly that He was the son of Yah and that He had just whipped Satan, He showed them without a doubt that this sickening thing dragging behind Him was nothing anymore and that from that day forward he was only capable of bluffing his way into the minds of the people. He shamed Satan like His father did many years before and He reminded all evil spirits and Satan himself that He, and only He, Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of God, was in control from then until the end of eternity.

When you refuse to forgive someone for any reason, that unforgiveness will corrupt your whole life, it means Yeshua died in vain. Your resentment doesn't just destroy that one relationship, it could destroy every relationship you will ever have because that spirit of rejection will stick to you like glue until it either gets you or you release it. Trust me, you don't want anything to do with the spirit of rejection, you want the spirit of Yah, the Ruach. If you get the spirit of Adonai and you don't have the word of Adonai, you'll blow up. If you get the word of Adonai and don't have the spirit of Adonai you'll dry up. But if you get the word of Adonai and mix it with the spirit of Adonai, you'll grow up! All of the IOU's that you have accumulated over the years must be torn up and thrown away before you will be, or can be accepted into the Kingdom of Heaven.

CORRUPTION

In **Gal. 6:7** it says *“For whatever a man sows this he shall also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap **corruption**”* The word corruption comes from a practice of Roman Emperors in biblical times. On occasion they would make an example of people who committed murder. They would make the men who committed murder carry the corpse of the dead victim around, strapped on their back. They had to eat with it, sleep with it. There was no way of getting rid of it. It doesn't take much imagination to picture how this gross corpse would look and reek after a few days. The gut wrenching stench and the maggots of the corpse would then corrupt the body of the man carrying the corpse till he died. This is where the word “corruption” comes from. Do you think Paul would use this word in this context if he wasn't trying to put across the importance of this scripture to the Galatians. If you haven't been able to forgive, then you are in fact carrying around a dead corpse and the stench is sickening to the nostrils of everyone around you. Your life and everything in it is being destroyed, and you are insulting your Father in heaven. Ask Yah to cut the corpse off your back and begin a new life in the light of the living Messiah, Yeshua.

The story is told about a man down in Nashville who had done his time in prison. He committed a bad crime and spent twenty years paying for it. He was so ashamed of what he had done that he refused any communication with the outside world. His family didn't see him, his relatives nor anyone else because he felt so guilty. Just before his release

from prison he asked Yeshua to come into his life and felt a strong urge to see his family again. He wrote a letter to his wife and explained that he didn't expect her to forgive him but that he wanted to apologize and make peace with her and his twenty one year old daughter. He felt he had no right to bother them and that he would understand if they didn't want to see him. In his letter he told his long lost wife that he wanted to come by the house, that she did not need to come to the door to see him if she didn't want to. He said he would give her a simple opportunity to let him know if he could come back into their lives. He suggested that if she wanted to see him that she put a white ribbon on one of the trees in the front yard and that way when he went by he would know whether or not he was welcome.

This giant of a man sat in the back of the bus heading for Nashville. He was a long ways away and the bus ride would be for many miles and many hours. After a couple hours on the bus the people began to talk to each other to pass the time more pleasantly. Everyone on the bus was talking back and forth but this nice man just sat there by himself minding his own business trying to adjust to the world he had been no part of for many years. No one could figure out why this man just sat there by himself and kept still and quiet. Finally after three hours into the trip a nice young gentleman sat down next to him and introduced himself. He tried to get a conversation going but found it very difficult. After a period of time the ex-convict answered him and began to talk. He hadn't had a pleasant conversation with a person from the outside world for many, many years so he slowly conversed with the nice young man. The young man asked him where he was from and where he was going and the ex-con told him his story. While he was telling him about his life the others on the bus quietly listened to his sad story and how he had written to his wife and told her about his life and how he wanted to come home but didn't expect her to accept him back into her life. The man explained about the white ribbon that he asked his wife to put out if she would have him back and the people became very involved in the situation. The large man went on about how he hadn't seen his family for many years and that he had never seen his daughter or grandchildren. All those present couldn't help but feel his sorrow and compassion for his long lost family. The big man explained that he was on his way to Nashville in the hopes of finding the old house and seeing the old neighborhood again. He said he was nervous and didn't know what to expect, but felt he must try to become part of his family again no matter how much pain he may have to endure if his hopes were squashed.

By now the bus driver himself became drawn in by the incredible story and asked if anyone on the bus would mind if they all drove by the old neighborhood and supported this mans quest. They worked their way along the old side streets, through the winding narrow streets and quietly drove along. Everyone on the bus was silent and many silently prayed in their hearts that the mans venture would end on a good note. Finally, the big greyhound slowed down on the right street and all were looking for the address while the giant of a man crouched down behind the seat in front of him, too scared to look. As the driver brought the big bus to a gentle stop to verify the correct address all eyes were starring out the big windows to look for that one white ribbon that may make a families life come together once again. There in the front yard of the old house they saw beautiful white ribbons strung out across every tree and shrub in the yard. Everyone on the bus

was excited as they all sat and wept for joy as the gentle man stepped off the bus into the arms of his long lost wife, daughter and grandchild. The venture had been a great success and the whole neighborhood eventually understood what had happened. It may never happen again in Nashville but the joy that man and his family experienced that day was joy that only Yahveh Himself could provide. The love in a family can withstand many burdens and the way the family deals with these trials and tribulations determines how much they are inspired by Yah. The bible states clearly **1Cor. 13:4-8** ***“Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or conceited or proud, love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable, love does not keep a record of wrongs, love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up, and its faith, hope and patience never fail”***

We all know the story of the prodigals son, Luke 15:11, the son did wrong but the father forgave him and welcomed him home with open arms even though he stunk like a pig. I wonder how many of us consider ourselves prodigal sons or daughters. How many of us wonder if their is enough love in our fathers heart to forgive us? Is their enough love in our mothers heart to forgive us? Is there any more love left in their hearts for their lost children? Are there any of us that have prodigal sons or daughters, if so, I ask you dad or mom, to get on the phone and call your prodigal son or your daughter, tell them that all is forgotten and forgiven, show them that you are capable of forgiving and forgetting, and that you want them back in your lives where all children rightfully belong. You should know, to recognize your strength is to know your weaknesses. Show them that you have strength and love in your heart beyond comprehension. Tell them to come home, and when they get there wrap your arms around them and show them and tell them out loud that you truly love them and that a fathers or a mothers love never ceases. Let them see the light in your eyes and let them feel the love, peace and joy in your heart and your spirit, then Adonai can help you with a new beginning. Ask Yah to bless them and grant you the ability to truly put the past in the river where it belongs. Slam the door of the past and open a new door to a better and eternal relationship with your children while you can. We are all familiar with the old saying “you don’t appreciate something until it’s gone” Don’t wait, gird up your loins and do it now.

To forgive without demanding change is to make the grace of Adonai an accomplice to evil. Forgiveness demands change, you must change your attitude if you want to be on the blessing side of Yah's kingdom. Yah is in the cleansing business, not the white washing business. Remember when the Pharisees brought the lady that was supposedly caught committing adultery, to Yeshua, what did he say to her? *“go and sin no more”*. He meant change your ways and make sure this doesn’t happen again. Forgiveness is not earned, it is accepted. Confession of sin and asking to be forgiven is not an admission of weakness but a sign of strength.

Some people think that if they give enough money to the so-called christian church they will be forgiven. Some of these pagan churches believe that if you say enough Hale Mary’s you will be forgiven. Common sense will tell you that’s ridiculous. Learn to forgive and forget daily, be proud that you are a good person and don’t be afraid to be humiliated once in a while. Don’t become a camouflage Christian. A “Camouflage Christian”, (someone seeking as best they can to blend in with the world); will. In **Eph. 1:7** Paul writes, ***“we have forgiveness through his blood”*** the blood at Calvary gave us the right

of forgiveness, the blood of Yeshua washes away all our sins white as snow. That is why we sing the hymn "Nothing but the blood of Yeshua". Satan will try to rob you of your past and destroy your future by convincing you not to forgive. You must remind Satan he is defeated and his future is in the river of fire.

I bring to your attention the story of the slave who pleaded to the King in the temple in front of all his friends and relatives. He asked to let him live even though he owed him millions of dollars and couldn't pay it back. The King felt sorry for the slave and forgave him his debt and allowed him and his family to live. The man went outside the gate of the temple and when he saw a man who owed him \$10 he chased him down to get the money he was owed. He then had the man sent in to debtors prison. When the King heard about this he called the slave back in and sentenced him to be handed over to the tormentors until the debt was paid. The other man who was put in prison for not paying the \$10 back was never released because the slave would not give the OK to release him. According to Roman customs he could have simply asked for his release but he wanted the other man to suffer. He wanted him to be held hostage for not paying him back. When you don't forgive someone you are in fact holding them hostage.

George Hebert once said "the man who cannot forgive burns the bridge over which he himself must pass" You must have faith to forgive and faith is not something that comes easily unless you come as a child into the kingdom. Faith is the ability to believe in substance you cannot see, touch, or hear, it is not a physical thing, an entity. It is a spiritual experience that can not be had until you ask Yeshua to come into your life. People wonder why you put your faith in the Almighty.

Think about this, you go to a doctor you don't know, and trust his diagnosis, you trust that he knows what he's doing, he then sends you to a pharmacist that you don't know, you trust him, you then get pills made from substances you don't know about, you trust them, made by people you don't know, you trust them, and you take a dosage you assume is right. Everything we do is dependent upon trust. If you have no trust, you have no faith whatsoever.

The Lords prayer, the most correct and beautiful prayer in the bible says, "*forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*". Yeshua forgave Peter on resurrection morning, even after Peter denied knowing him three times, he said "*go tell my disciples and Peter*". He included him even though Peter denied him three times. Yeshua demonstrated love that had the power to forgive on the stake. Some of the last words Yeshua spoke at Calvary were to those who murdered Him, He said; Father please forgive them for they know not what they have done.

Forgiveness is a full pardon, forgiveness is a fresh start, forgiveness is a new chance. Forgiveness is a new beginning, it is the lifting of a heavy burden. Forgiveness is the cancelling of a debt. Forgiveness unlocks the door to resentment. Forgiveness is a supernatural power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness. Forgiveness is full of compassion, and forgiveness demands a change.

You are not forgiven for sins (lawlessness) because you are sorry you were caught. You are forgiven through the shedding of the blood of the lamb of Yah and for no other reason. The scripture says "We have forgiveness through His blood" **Acts 3:19** "**Repent, therefore and return that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing**

may come from the presence of the Lord”

For some people forgiveness becomes a life long story that many of us are tired of hearing, for example; I know that your divorce happened in 1957 and that you have forgotten about it and forgiven him. You remind us every month that you have forgotten about it, and that you have forgiven him. People who remind us that they have forgotten about forgiving someone continually are not practicing forgiveness, they are practicing witchcraft under the banner of forgiveness.

We are like beasts when we carry the demon spirit of revenge, we are like men when we judge each other harshly, we are like God when we forgive one another.

The quality of your life is determined by what you can love, what you can value and what you have the moral strength to forgive and forget.

1Pet. 3:7 says *“You husbands likewise, **live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered”*** In plain English that means if you don't treat your spouse properly and forgive him or her constantly, your prayers are useless. One of the hardest questions ever put forth to a human being of any stature is “how can you forget”? The second part of forgiving is forgetting, Adonai says He will forget all of your sins the moment you confess them to him, He instantly forgets them, they are old news, gone, a thing of the past and never again brought up by His mercy. The sins you have committed cannot shock our Father, nothing can shock God, I don't care what you have done in the past or how terrible it may have been, if you come into the family of God and ask for His forgiveness ALL your previous sins are a thing of the past.

There are moments in time that all of us can look back on when we were hurt by someone we trusted, someone who betrayed us and we were hurt beyond description. Maybe you were rejected as a child by your parents, maybe it was a divorce that you never got over, maybe your friend or an employer did a number on you, there are many bad things that have happened to all of us that we find hard to forget, but if you ever want to have peace in your life you must forgive and forget. Otherwise you will be tormented by God himself as it says in the scriptures, *“those who do not forgive will be tormented”*. You are not capable of forgetting the past except with the help of Gods grace, He gives you the ability to look into the past and not feel sick about bad experiences, He gives you the ability to feel sorry for those who have hurt you and He asks that you bless and pray for them in return.

When you come into His world of the Supernatural you are **“born again or rejuvenated”** and you become of His world, not of this world. You may have to live in this world but you are no longer of this world. When you verbally give yourself to Yeshua and earnestly ask Him to forgive you for all your sins of the past that is exactly what He will do and all the angels rejoice in heaven with this confession of a new believer. Your old self dies immediately and you are born again, a metamorphosis, and you become a card carrying member of the most beautiful family in existence, you become a member of the family of our Messiah. You step from a world of the misguided unbelievers into a whole new dimension of unlimited love and power from a source that has no end, our great Alef and Tav (Alpha and Omega). The Prince of the earth, Satan, no longer has total control of you and you are assured that he can never have control of you again unless you allow it.

This doesn't mean that he will not do his best to destroy you, it means that you will be under the umbrella of God Almighty, the creator. The great "I am", the great Yehovah that created the universe and everything in it becomes your Father, guide and pilot. He will be at your side to help steer and guide you for all eternity. When you have El Shaddai at your side who could possibly harm you?

All Believers associate unforgiveness with stubbornness. Stubbornness is something we are all too familiar with, stubbornness has created monsters of all of us at one time or another, but stubbornness too can be and must be controlled. The following story is a typical example of stubbornness that can cost lives.

Through the pitch dark of the night the captain of the ship noticed a light, dead ahead and on a collision course. The captain yells at his signal man and says, tell that light to change it's course immediately 10 degrees east. The light signals back; you change your course 10 degrees west. The captain of the ship gets angry, he sends the reply, I am a navy captain, change your course mister. The light answered back; I'm a seaman second class and I'm telling you to change your course immediately and steer 20 degrees west. The captain is now furious, he signals back to the light; I am a captain in the US Navy, I command you to turn 30 degrees east, I'm not about to change my course for a second class seaman. The light replied, sir I suggest you turn immediately 40 degrees west or else. The captain was now foaming at the mouth; he signals back to the light; I am a captain in the US Navy and I am commanding the nuclear battleship, the SS Nimits, this is friendly territory, I have put up with your crap long enough, I command you to turn 50 degrees east now! The light replies; I am a lighthouse, it's your call!

Stubbornness can destroy lives as fast as water can put out a fire, it must be dealt with and our attitudes must be adjusted accordingly. A true Believer cannot and will not seek revenge on his enemies. You can be right or you can be reconciled, but you can't be both. It is easy to get carried away when your mad, and say things we later regret. Too many times we take revenge with our tongue and our tongue is guaranteed to get us in trouble. **James 3:7-9** says *"Man has been able to tame and has tamed all other creatures, wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish, but no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison"* **Rom. 12:14-21** says *"If people persecute you because you are a Believer, don't curse them, pray that God will bless them. When others are happy, be happy, if they are sad, share their sorrow. Live in harmony with one another. Don't try to act important, but enjoy the company of ordinary people and don't think you know it all. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible. Dear friends never avenge yourselves, leave that to Yah, for it is written, I will take vengeance, I will repay those who deserve it, says the Yahveh"* Instead do what the scriptures say. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink and they will be ashamed of what they have done to you. Don't let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good. Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, and remember Yah says **"I will look after vengeance"** Think about that, would you like to be on the receiving end of Yah's vengeance?

The Bible teaches that all anger is not sin. **Eph. 4:26** **"BE ANGRY, AND {YET} DO**

NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,” In other words, it’s okay to be angry, as long as you do not let your anger lead you into sin. Yeshua said that **“whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment” Matt. 5:22** *“But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”* The supreme example of properly directed, righteously motivated anger is described in Matt. 21, when Yeshua acted in anger to cleanse the temple. Yeshua was furious when He entered the temple that day. The house of Yahveh had been converted to a market place where people were being robbed in the name of Yah. **Matt. 21:13** *“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”* Yeshua demonstrated that when the cause is righteous, anger is love’s clearest voice.

In biblical times the Jews said that if you forgave someone as many as three times a day you were almost as great as Yeshua. In **Matt. 18:21-22** it says *“Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seventy times? No! Yeshua replied, **seventy times seven!** This means 490 times per day.* It’s obvious here how important it is to forgive people. Behavioral psychologists today say that if you do something 15 times in a row it becomes a habit and you have a behavioral problem. So, according to them if you are a good Believer you have a behavioral problem, that shows you how different the religion of psychology is from any true biblical understanding. That in fact puts another nail into the coffin of deceit and false teaching which they are selling to secular society and many ignorant Christians today, for \$200 an hour.

One of the greatest gifts Adonai has given us is the ability to pray. The bible says if you do not forgive and forget your prayers go unanswered. We have all experienced or heard of the power of prayer, can you imagine not being able to pray. How could anyone be without the gift of prayer. Praying is like launching an Intercontinental Ballistic missile, His Holy Spirit is the fuel for the missile and Yah guides it. He may not send it exactly where you think it should go but He knows where it will have the highest impact for your purpose and for His glory. The scriptures say if there is any unforgiveness in your heart your prayers are useless. Can you even imagine how awful it would be if your prayers had no value.

This is the dilemma torah-less christians find themselves in without ever realizing it. They sin on purpose continuously because they don't really love and keep His commandments or torah. They do this by following the ways of their pagan church. They follow THEM instead of HIM.

The most powerful weapon known to a Believer is the power of prayer, if this were not available you would feel useless. Remember, kneeling keeps you in good standing with Yah. The scriptures say in **Luke 16:27** *“But I tell you who hear me; love your enemies, do good to those who curse you and **pray for those who mistreat you.** If anyone hits you on the cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. **Do for others just what you want them to do for you”***

The consequences of living with unforgiveness are;

1. **Ps. 38:3** *“There is **no soundness** in my flesh”* David meant that every day you wake up knowing that you are hiding sin from Yah, like a cancer in your soul.
2. **Ps. 38:3** *“**neither is there any rest in my bones** because of my sin”* In other words your sin has affected your physical body.
3. **Ps. 38:7** *“my loins are filled with **loathsome disease** and there is **no soundness in my flesh**”* In Hebrew “loins” means, my strength, my confidence, loathsome disease means “shrinking, drying up”
4. **Ps. 38:5** *“my wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness”* David meant that when your sins dominate you you have a moral stench like that of a festering sore.
5. **Ps. 38:6** *“I am **troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long**”* The Hebrew meaning of “trouble” here means “a heavy, dark sadness”
6. **Ps. 38:8** *“I am feeble and sore broken; I have roared by reason of the **disquietness of my heart**”* David was saying he had a yearning for lost peace, sin had robbed him of his freedom.
7. **Ps. 38:10** *“as for **the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me**”* David had lost his spiritual discernment, he had lost the light of the truth, the revelation of Christ.

Six of the above things would be awful to lose, but if you lose the seventh thing, “the light” you are totally lost.

I don’t know what the future holds but I know who holds the future.

As the Lords Prayer says, **“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”** It will never be right between you and Yahveh until you do. As the second class seaman said; it’s your call!

(Mar 19/16) Jerry Hennig