

Forgiveness: to pardon or remove guilt, removing our need to get revenge. It means graciously and generously canceling a debt.

Jesus wants us to forgive like He forgives—without limit or conditions.

1. What if we don't feel like forgiving others? How do we change our thinking and feeling?

Step 1—Confess your pain first—Psalm 62: 8 —Psalm 5:1-3 -- Gal 2:20

Step 2—Consider your purpose —"I want to know Christ--yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death..." Phil 2:10-- In good times and bad.

Step 3—Consent to His will- OR REAP THE CONSEQUENCES

- The Lord's goal for our lives is not to make us happy, but holy, and others holy as well through us! We become happy when we're holy.
- It is easier to act our way into feeling than to feel our way into acting.
- Maturity is doing what you need to do regardless of the environment, because you are fulfilling God's call in your life and doing it for His glory.

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Col 3:23

2. What does God say about forgiveness?

1. We forgive because we have been forgiven by God.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Eph 4:32

2. We forgive in obedience to God (Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:18).

"For 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." [For entire message notes see 7/12]

Perseverance: It's a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. To follow Jesus, even when He leads us to and through harrowing times. We cling to God because He holds us firmly in His hands. John 10:28; Deut 33:27

1. In what ways are we supposed to persevere as **followers of Jesus**?

- "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*" Rom 12:12
- "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" Gal 6:9
- "*But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.*"

2 Tim 3:14

2. What does God do to help us persevere?

- "*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand*" Jn 10: 28-29
- "*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*" Ro 11:29
- "*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*" Phil 1:6
- "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*" 1 Pe1: 3-5

3. Through what can we cultivate perseverance in our lives?

1. His Word—2 Tim 3: 16-17 – Equip yourself with the right biblical tools
2. His Spirit—John 14: 26-27—Learn from the right spirit—the Holy one!
3. His People—Philippians 1: 3-5—Partner with the right people
4. His Mission—I Cor 15: 57-58—Work for the right purpose

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?

2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?

3. What steps do you need to take to develop #3 (1-4) above? Be specific.