

**Life Changing
Principles of Freedom #5**

Forgive means to set free, to let go, to release, to discharge, or to liberate completely.

Secular sense in the New Testament means to cancel a debt, or release someone from the obligation of a contract, a commitment, or promise.

To forgiveness means to forfeit any right to hold a person captive to a previous commitment, or wrong he has committed.

The high cost of unforgiveness...

Matt 18:21-35 NKJV

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also

will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

1. Unforgiveness has the power to hinder our sins being forgiven.

Matt 6:14-15 NKJV

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2. Unforgiveness has the power to separate us from God

Gal 5:6 NET

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight - the only thing that matters is faith working through love.

John 13:34-35 MSG

34 "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. 35 This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples — when they see the love you have for each other."

3. Unforgiveness turns out the light.

1 John 2:9-11 NIV

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

4. Unforgiveness stops personal growth

5. Unforgiveness brings punishment

Matt. 18:34 NKJV

And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Steps to freedom from unforgiveness

- 1. Repent to God**
- 2. Forgive the person – let it go**

3. Bless our offender (Luke 6:27-28)

Blessing a person is the most powerful ingredient for changing our unhealthy emotions.

It releases a blessing from God that overcomes our feelings and brings emotional healing.