Psalm 51:5-6 King James Version (KJV)
5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

The Forgiving Power of the BLOOD

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The Forgiving Power of the BLOOD

1.0 Introduction

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6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

The Webster’s dictionary defines INIQUITY as:
1: gross injustice: WICKEDNESS
2: a wicked act or thing: SIN

Synonyms for iniquity

corruption, debauchery, depravity, immorality, iniquitousness, libertinage, libertinism, licentiousness, profligacy, sin, vice

The question here is how can we liberated and experience the true freedom from guilt and our past shame when the Bible says:

Isaiah 64:4-9 King James Version (KJV)
4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.
5 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.
6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.
But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Be not wroth very sore, O LORD, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.

It is absolutely essential for us to realize that there is a forgiving power and that forgiving power lies in the shed blood of Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing we can do will ever add to or take away from the work that Christ did on the cross.

As the lyrics of the many songs and hymn says,

- "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!"
- Another Hymn says: There is power, power, wonder working power
  In the blood of the Lamb
  There is power, power, and wonder working power
  In the precious blood of the Lamb
- Are You Washed in the Blood?
- Oh, the Blood of Jesus

There is life and transformation power in the precious blood of the Lamb.

The blood of Jesus holds such a special place in the hearts of believers that it gives access to:
2.0 God in worship and prayer

The Bible is clear that every person is alienated and separated from God because of our sin:
Colossians 1:21-22 King James Version (KJV)
21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:

That means even the best of us are actually unable to approach God to offer worship or prayer. Because of our sins, we remain at a distance from him.
But the Bible tells Christians to come boldly into God's presence,

Hebrews 10:19 King James Version (KJV)
19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

If you are a Christian today, you can have boldness and confidence as you approach God with your prayers and your worship, because you are no longer far away from God,

Ephesians 2:13 King James Version (KJV)
13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

It is because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ that we have the great privilege of pouring our hearts out to God:
• Casting our cares on Him
Psalm 62:8 King James Version (KJV)
8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.
• Casting our cares on him:
1 Peter 5:7 King James Version (KJV)
7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
• Praying any time and any place in the power of the Spirit:
Ephesians 6:18 King James Version (KJV)
18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The kind of relationship we have with the Father God through is all through the blood of his Son Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Forgiveness of sin

In addition to being able to enter into God’s presence through the blood of Christ, we are also forgiven of our sins.

**Ephesians 1:7 King James Version (KJV)**

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Because of Christ’s shed blood, God is able to forgive us for our sins as Lord Jesus Christ endured all the punishment that we deserved.

Christ had a special way of explaining this to his disciples during the Last Supper, the Passover meal celebration.

**Matthew 26:28 King James Version (KJV)**

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jesus has gathered his disciples together for the Last Supper. As these men gather around him, he holds up the cup and begins to explain that his blood is the New Covenant and that his blood is sufficient. Whereas the blood of goats and bulls for 4000 years has not met the requirements for the fulfilling of the law, HIS BLOOD IS SUFFICIENT. This is what He was talking about when he said that He had come to fulfil the law not do away with it.

He was telling his disciples that just as the blood of the lamb delivered the Hebrews from the night of terrors in Egypt, so Christ’s own blood would deliver the people who were covered by it from the judgment of God on the last day.

This truth is expressed beautifully in the hymn, “Nothing but the Blood”:

> *What can wash away my sin?*
> *Nothing but the blood of Jesus;*
> *What can make me whole again?*
> *Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*
> *Oh! Precious is the flow*
> *That makes me white as snow;*
> *No other fount I know,*
> *Nothing but the blood of Jesus…*

*Halleluiah and Praise The Lord.*
4. Our Consciences cleansed

Through the blood of Christ, Christians we receive the cleansing of our consciences.

**Hebrews 9:14 King James Version (KJV)**
14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

This is an amazing promise! Christ cleansing our consciences from acts that lead to death! How does He do it? By the blood of Christ, because on the cross He offered Himself unblemished to God! He offered Himself—His unblemished, perfect life—as a sacrifice to God for us on account of our sins. Therefore, He alone is able to cleanse our consciences through His blood.

**1 Timothy 4:2 King James Version (KJV)**
2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Christ can cleanse our consciences. We are able to live our lives in righteousness, think positively of God, and appreciate the reconciliation virtue of the blood of Christ Jesus with the Father God in heaven who has been burdened by sinful past and corrupted consciences.

**We are being progressively cleansed from our sins and our corrupted ways. Not only are we forgiven from sin, but we are also sanctified through the blood of Christ.**

**Hebrews 13:12 King James Version (KJV) tells us that:**
12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

**God is calling his people to be holy as he is Holy, which is one of the reasons Jesus suffered, shed His blood and died for us on the cross. Without holiness, no one will see the Lord:**

**Hebrews 12:14 King James Version (KJV)**
14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Being forgiven of our sins we are able to enter into a new relationship with God, our Holy Father in heaven without conviction and condemnation. That is why he gives us the power, through the blood of his Son, to be cleansed from our sinful ways and behaviours.
5.0 Conquering the accuser

We are able to conquer the accuser of the brethren.

Because of Christ’s great sacrifice and the pouring out of His blood on our behalf, we are made righteous with God through Christ Jesus and not through our own righteousness.

Revelation 12:11 King James Version (KJV)

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

As believers, we know that we cannot stand on our own merit or because of our own deeds. The Bible says our good deeds are as filthy rags before God:

Isaiah 64:6 King James Version (KJV)

6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away and that Christ’s righteousness attributed to us is how we are able to stand up against accusations.

Charles Spurgeon spoke these comforting words:

I know what the devil will say to you. He will say to you, ‘You are a sinner!’ Tell him you know you are, but that for all that you are justified. He will tell you of the greatness of your sin. Tell him of the greatness of Christ’s righteousness. He will tell you of all your mishaps and your backslidings, of your offences and your wanderings. Tell him, and tell your own conscience, that you know all that, but that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, and that, although your sin is great, Christ is quite able to put it all away.
6.0. Rescued out of a sinful way of life

1 Peter 1:18-19 King James Version (KJV)

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

The blood of Jesus certainly is not perishable. In this verse ...Peter meant to startle us - into seeing a tremendous truth. In the current world system, the world thinks that money is everything, but Peter intended us to see that it has no spiritual value what-so-ever. Money cannot buy our salvation, money cannot redeem our sins, money cannot heal our disease, money cannot save us from our eternal death, and money cannot buy God. There are no spiritual cash bargains available in the kingdom of heaven.

→ In real terms only the blood of Jesus has lasting value.

→ When heaven and earth vanish, the redeeming power of Christ’s blood will continue.

We talk about “precious metals” such as silver and gold, but Peter in his statement is speaking about “the precious blood of Christ.” Peter is saying what money cannot do the blood of Jesus can do it – it can cleanse all sinners from their sins.

The greatest sin is to say we have no sin. That is plain self-deception.

1 John 1:8 King James Version (KJV)

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

There is great power in the blood of Jesus

1. It has redeemed us

2. It has cleansed us

3. It is a part of the atonement

4. It has the power to forgive and to remove our sins –not just cover our sins –but remove them in totality.

People on this earth are not sure nor do they want to experience the transforming power of the blood of Jesus. I think one of the reasons why it is so hard to grasp the true forgiving power of Christ's shed blood is because it just seems too good to be true. Wouldn't you agree? But God's Word is true, and it even tells us that through Christ, we have exceedingly great and precious promises:
2 Peter 1:4 King James Version (KJV)

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The word precious in the above verse refers to the Greek word timios, which actually means valuable or costly! Jesu paid a steep price for our redemption, healing and deliverance!

“There is power, there is power, there is power in the Blood of Jesus.”

There is a power that supersedes every other power. It supersedes the power of atomic and nuclear bombs. It has the transforming power to transform death into life.

That power in the BLOOD of Jesus is such a powerful weapon that it transforms defeat into victory.

It brings deliverance and protection in the lives of people.

Isaiah 53:1-5 King James Version (KJV)

53 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

I believe the Holy Spirit is showing us that if we have to do something to receive forgiveness of our sins, then we will always wonder if we have done enough! Look at this passage in scripture:

Galatians 3:11 King James Version (KJV)

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
The Blood of Jesus was shed not only to forgive, but to remove sin!

In the Old Testament, the priests would sacrifice lambs, goats, calves, dove etc. to cover the people's sins. However, this sacrifice was not significant to remove the stains of sin that our lives are tainted with. But since Christ shed His blood, our sin can be REMOVED from our account! In Hebrews 10, it paints us this picture very clearly.

**Hebrews 10:1-22 King James Version (KJV)**

10 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.
Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

And having an high priest over the house of God;

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 26 that His blood is shed for many for the remission of sins. The word remission here is referring to the Greek word ἀφέσις which means:

"Forgiveness or pardon of sins, (letting them go as if they had never been committed) or remission of the penalty."

With that Jesus says:

Matthew 26:28 King James Version (KJV)

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

John the Baptist also confirmed this when He said that Jesus, the Lamb of God, taketh away the sin in:

John 1:29 King James Version (KJV)

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
8.0 How do we receive this forgiveness?

The Bible says that everyone sins and because of sin we are condemned to everlasting hell.

Romans 3:23 King James Version (KJV)
23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

BUT The Bible also says:

Romans 6:23 King James Version (KJV)
23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Firstly, we need to and we must understand that the forgiveness of our sins is considered a GIFT... this means that we cannot deserve it or earn it in any way, but we must receive this gift.

Ephesians 2:8 King James Version (KJV)
8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

We are told that through faith in Christ Jesus, we can obtain forgiveness of our sins through the blood that He shed for us. We need to look nowhere else but to that old rugged cross:

Galatians 2:16 King James Version (KJV)
16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:11 King James Version (KJV)
11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11 King James Version (KJV)
11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

John 3:15 King James Version (KJV)
15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

From the verses above, we can very clearly see that it is only through faith in Christ Jesus that we are made right with God. The Bible is very clear even showing us that if we try to make ourselves righteous by our own works, then we are missing the whole point, and
therefore we are not truly accepting the work that Christ did as significant! It is not of
works but faith in Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 5:1 King James Version (KJV)**

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not
entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

And the Bible further says:

**Galatians 5:4 King James Version (KJV)**

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from
grace.

We receive forgiveness of God by humbling ourselves before God.

### 12 Ways to Humble Yourself

By Jan Chismar • July 14, 2009
Ref: [https://billygraham.org/story/twelve-ways-to-humble-yourself/](https://billygraham.org/story/twelve-ways-to-humble-yourself/)

- **Routinely confess your sin to God** *(Luke 18:9-14).* All of us sin and fall short of the
glory of God. However, too few of us have a routine practice of rigorous self-honesty
examination. Weekly, even daily, review of our hearts and behaviours, coupled with
confession to God, is an essential practice of humility.

- **Acknowledge your sin to others** *(James 3:2, James 5:16).* Humility before God is
not complete unless there is also humility before man. A true test of our willingness to
humble ourselves is willingness to share with others the weaknesses we confess to
God. Wisdom, however, dictates that we do so with others that we trust.

- **Take wrong patiently** *(1 Peter 3:8-17).* When something is unjust we want to react
and rectify it. However, patiently responding to the unjust accusations and actions of
others demonstrates our strength of godly character and provides an opportunity to put
on humility.

- **Actively submit to authority…the good and the bad** *(1 Peter 2:18).* Our culture
does not value submission; rather it promotes individualism. How purposely and
actively do you work on submission to those whom God has placed as authorities in
your life? Doing so is a good way to humble yourself.

- **Receive correction and feedback from others graciously** *(Proverbs 10:17, 12:1).* In
the Phoenix area, a local East valley pastor was noted for graciously receiving any
negative feedback or correction offered. He would simply say “thank you for caring enough to share that with me, I will pray about it and get back to you.” Look for the kernel of truth in what people offer you, even if it comes from a dubious source. Always pray, “Lord, what are you trying to show me through this?”

- **Accept a lowly place** (*Proverbs 25:6,7*). If you find yourself wanting to sit at the head table, wanting others to recognize your contribution or become offended when others are honored or chosen, then pride is present. Purpose to support others being recognized, rather than you. Accept and look for the lowly place; it is the place of humility.

- **Purposely associate with people of lower state than you** (*Luke 7:36-39*). Jesus was derided by the Pharisees for socializing with the poor and those of lowly state. Our culture is very status conscious and people naturally want to socialize upward. Resist the temptation of being partial to those with status or wealth.

- **Choose to serve others** (*Philippians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 4:5, Matthew 23:11*). When we serve others, we are serving God’s purposes in their lives. Doing so reduces our focus on ourselves and builds the Kingdom of God. When serving another costs us nothing, we should question whether it is really servanthood.

- **Be quick to forgive** (*Matthew 18: 21-35*). Forgiveness is possibly one of the greatest acts of humility we can do. To forgive is to acknowledge a wrong that has been done us and also to further release our right of repayment for the wrong. Forgiveness is denial of self. Forgiveness is not insisting on our way and our justice.

- **Cultivate a grateful heart** (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*). The more we develop an attitude of gratitude for the gift of salvation and life He has given us, the more true our perspective of self. A grateful heart is a humble heart.

- **Purpose to speak well of others** (*Ephesians 4:31-32*). Saying negative things about others puts them “one down” and us “one up.” Speaking well of others edifies them and builds them up. Make sure, however, that what you say is not intended as flattery.

- **Treat pride as a condition that always necessitates embracing the cross** (*Luke 9:23*). It is our nature to be proud and it is God’s nature in us that brings humility. Committing to a lifestyle of daily dying to ourselves and living through Him is the foundation for true humility.
9.0 The Power of Forgiveness

Many people are controlled by BITTERNESS. They would have been badly and cruelly treated by their offenders. Many brood for years, tormented by memories of the non-healing wounds they had received. Sometimes they are so angry, feeling depressed and having the anxiety attacks, that they pray to God something bad happens to their offenders. But the Bible says that this is the very worst possible “solution” to resolve the hurt in our lives.

The real solution to dealing with injustice suffered on the accounts of others is not vengeance, unchecked anger, or bitter brooding. The Bible specifically states the solution is forgiveness. If you want to experience an abundant life in Jesus, you must learn how to forgive those who have hurt you. The Bible says:

Revelation 12:12 King James Version (KJV)

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Seventy Times Seven

Jesus’ parable about forgiveness is one of the most essential Bible stories for our time on the subject of FORGIVENESS.

Peter asked our Saviour Lord Jesus Christ,

Matthew 18:21 King James Version (KJV)

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Forgive someone only seven times? We often have to forgive our spouses that much in a single week! But in the time of Christ, religious leaders taught that God was willing to forgive you only three times.

Peter, knowing Jesus was indeed merciful, bravely doubled the number of times he had been taught to forgive someone and even added one for good measure. But Christ’s response shocked not only His disciple, and most tragically, a very shocking answer for most so called professing Christians of today and current generation.

Matthew 18:22 King James Version (KJV)

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Now, most Bible scholars agree that Jesus wasn’t setting a literal limit. God isn’t sitting up in heaven checking off the number of times He has forgiven you; otherwise, all of us would have already exhausted our quota. God’s mercy doesn’t run out at 490 allotments of grace. As long as we are willing to repent, the Lord will forgive.
The issue is that God asks the same of His people. Don’t keep track of how many times you have forgiven your friend, co-worker, or spouse for his or her unkind words or actions. God claims—and has proven time and again in your life and mine—that He is

**Exodus 34:6 King James Version (KJV)**

6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The L ORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

The word “abundant” does not set a limit in God’s heart for His children.

The Lord does not quickly give up on us. Seven times Jesus cast devils out of Mary.

Solomon said,

**Proverbs 24:16 King James Version (KJV)**

16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

The Gospel of Luke adds,

**Luke 17:3-4 King James Version (KJV)**

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

The Bible is full of promises that connect forgiveness with the number seven—a number representing completeness and perfection.

In Daniel chapter 9, when the prophet prayed for his people, God sent an angel to declare that seventy weeks (70 times 7 for 490 literal years) of additional mercy would be extended to the wayward Jewish people.

**The Unmerciful Debtor**

Jesus next shared the parable of the unmerciful debtor, in which He addressed two kinds of forgiveness—between yourself and God, and between yourself and your neighbour.

Jesus explained,

**Matthew 18:23-24 King James Version (KJV)**

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.
24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents
A talent was the largest currency in New Testament times. Can you picture a giant heaping pile of bags of silver and gold? It was a ridiculously large sum. Indeed, it is the largest sum of money mentioned in Scripture. You could never pay back this kind of debt, not even over many lifetimes.

How much is a talent in today’s money?
Some authorities say that the talent typically weighed about 33 kg (75 lb) varying from 20 to 40 kg. In June, 2018, the international price of gold was about US$41,155.69 per kilogram. One gram costs about $38. At this price, a talent (33 kg) would be worth about $1,400,116.57

The king’s servant must have had a royal credit card and, evidently, had been freely spending the king’s money, perhaps going on expensive business trips, staying in luxurious hotels, and feasting lavishly with friends at posh restaurants. He might have even had a drinking or gambling habit that drained precious government resources. As he amassed this mountain of debt, surely he lived in constant fear, knowing that a day of reckoning was coming. But he could not help himself.

As it always does, judgment day finally caught up to this debtor.

Matthew 18:25 King James Version (KJV)
25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

In Australia, if you get into a financial crisis, you can declare bankruptcy or go into receivership and pay the amount back in regular set amount without any interest. In Bible times; you were thrown into prison and your family could be sold into slavery. It was an unmitigated disaster.

When the servant saw all his possessions being carried from his house and his wife and children being hauled away, in desperation he fell on his knees before the king and cried out,

Matthew 18:26 King James Version (KJV)
26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Of course, the servant could never repay his master, and the king knew it.

Yet the heart of the compassionate and understanding king was touched by his wayward servant’s pleading.

Matthew 18:27 King James Version (KJV)
27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.
Amazing! The king didn’t set up a payment plan or negotiate a settlement with this debtor. He simply forgave it all.

How does God deal with our sins? Does He calculate our balance due, divide it into a certain number of instalments, and then enrol us in a payment plan? Not at all! God has compassion and freely forgives all, just as the king forgave his servant this enormous debt.

An Ungrateful Response
Now, this would be a nice place to end the story, but Jesus went on to make His most important point.

Like many of us so called being a Born again professing Christians do exactly as the servant did in the following verse:

Matthew 18:28 King James Version (KJV)
28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

This man’s heavy-handed actions are shocking in light of the mercy he had just experienced. He didn’t leave the presence of the king with appreciation; he walked away mad. He convinced himself that his buddy still owed him what amounted to a few weeks’ wages. Why was he so harsh, demanding that he be paid back immediately? Evidently, his own forgiveness from the king did not sink in.

Think about the vast difference between 10,000 talents and 100 denarii. It took 6,000 denarii to equal one talent. It’s as if our debt to God is like the distance from the earth to the sun, an average distance of about 93,000,000 miles (150 million kilometres) away from Earth. It is so far away that light from the Sun, traveling at a speed of 186,000 miles (300,000 kilometres) per second, takes about 8 minutes to reach us. By comparison, the debts others owe us are at most a few metres. The Lord said that He is willing to forgive us the vast distance between the earth and sun, yet we struggle to forgive each other a measly 12 inches or 30 centimetres away! Jesus contrasted these absurdly differing amounts of money to show how much God has forgiven us in comparison with how little we are sometimes willing to forgive each other.

We often meet people who have quit attending church. We ask them, “Why don’t you go to church anymore?” Many will say and tell stories of how poorly they were treated or how a church member or pastor treated them very unkindly. They feel that if they stop going to church, they will somehow get even with the other party. But how does moving away from God’s house teach anyone a lesson? It just doesn’t make sense, and it is exactly what the devil wants us to do.

Don’t ever fall into the devil’s trap by withdrawing from the church. There will always be noxious
weeds mixed in with the good grain. Even Jesus had a Judas in His church, so don’t let Satan scare you away because of stiff-necked people. Indeed, those who wound others have often been wounded themselves. If we could see the pains from their pasts, we might have more empathy towards them. It is easier to forgive others when we know what is going on in their hearts.

Jesus continued.

**Matthew 18:29 King James Version (KJV)**

29 And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Notice that the servant who owed a much smaller amount gave the exact plea as the servant who owed a much larger amount.

**Matthew 18:30 King James Version (KJV)**

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

Pause before you point an accusing finger at this man’s cold-hearted response; consider that Jesus might be speaking about you. Have you ever been unwilling to forgive others? Is that happening in your life right now? Each one of us has a debt that Jesus willingly suffered to take off our plate. For our cause as sinners, Lord Jesus Christ our Master was beaten, spat upon, denied by His friends, denied by the world and nailed to the old rugged cross.

**Luke 23:34 King James Version (KJV)**

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

How can we then say, “But Lord, I just cannot forgive that person at church, work place, neighbourhood who gossiped about you, took your very position in church or workplace you desired most”? What does that say about your Christian experience?

**Difficult but Necessary**

In my Christian life and as a servant of God most high, I have heard terrible stories of people who were abused as children for years by their unrepentant family members. Current Royal Commission on Child Abuse in Churches by high profile priests, challenges us with the question, should we forgive these evil perpetrators? Mind you this is a very difficult and a fair question.

Clarifying what forgiveness does not mean is we should not let offenders off the hook for their bad behaviour. Some people need to be held accountable for their actions by the laws of the land. Nor does forgiveness mean we let people constantly use us as a physical or emotional punching bag and this continue to be repeated in lives of others.
Rather, forgiveness is giving up your bitterness, resentment and your emotional frustrations. It is choosing to release malice, putting the other person into God’s hands, and being willing to pray for your enemy.

When you refuse to forgive others who have hurt you, you are giving them permission to keep hurting you. You continue to be a slave to their offense. Jesus told us to love our neighbours and your enemies. Sometimes the people who hurt us most deeply are those closest to us. It was Abel’s own brother, Cain, who slew him. David’s son tried to murder him. As children of God, we have turned our backs on Him repeatedly. We should never forget that:

**Romans 5:8 King James Version (KJV)**

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Forgiving somebody is the hardest thing we encounter in our lives. Not only that, but forgetting what happened.

But Martin Luther said, “You can’t keep the birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.”

As a Christian we can pray for that person and like Jesus says “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

Pray that he or she receives Lord Jesus Christ. Many a time God is using you as an intercessor for that person. God wants you to pray for him earnestly, until the powers of the devil in him are totally broken and he is set free.
10.0 Results of Resentment

What happens when we do not surrender ourselves to Biblical teachings and principles? What happens when we do not show mercy and forgive others?

Jesus delved into this consequence as He went on with His parable.

**Matthew 18:31-33 King James Version (KJV)**

31 So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?

When we receive Christ’s forgiveness, and we are Born Again filled with Holy Ghost, the Lord softens our hearts. We will have compassion for others, even toward those who have offended us. The apostle Paul taught,

**Ephesians 4:32 King James Version (KJV)**

32 And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.

We should generously forgive just as the Lord has generously forgiven us.

Jesus clearly emphasized this same principle in the Lord’s Prayer.

**Matthew 6:12 King James Version (KJV)**

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Jesus clearly emphasized the importance of the word forgiveness and the consequences of forgiveness.

**Matthew 6:14-15 King James Version (KJV)**

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

An old, crusty general once told great Christian preacher John Wesley, “I never forgive, and I never forget.” Wesley responded, “Then you are burning the bridge over which you must pass.”

An unforgiving heart brings serious consequences. After the king rebuked his servant, the Bible says,
Matthew 18:34 King James Version (KJV)
34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Christ’s sobering point concludes,

Matthew 18:35 King James Version (KJV)
35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.

Forgiving others is not optional; it is mandatory in the Bible. For a Christian, forgiving others is not nor should it feel like an obligation. It is a commandment. For me it is a commandment. I am obligated to recognize this in my life. Being a servant leader, He led us to do things by example. He showed us these things through His actions.

33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

We should not feel keeping the law should feel like an obligation. You will know you are converted and are a true Christian when you experience the natural outflowing of Christ’s love in you through portraying yourself as a forgiving person. Once a person recognizes forgiveness is not an obligation but a commandment that we need to practice, forgiveness in your life will open heaven’s doors to much greater blessings.

Matthew 18 King James Version (KJV)
18 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

What does Humbling Yourself before God really means?
The Webster dictionary defines humility as not being proud, haughty, arrogant, or assertive. Very often, we give something up to God, try to correct ourselves before God and man, we go back to the same position and deal with the situation with the same attitude when we get frustrated and stressed out with the other person’s attitude whom we think have forgiven. To humble ourselves and have a forgiving heart of Lord Jesus Christ in us, we need to take every attitude problems in our lives and nail it to the OLD RUGGED CROSS OF CALVARY AND LEAVE IT THERE.

When was the Holy Spirit poured out in great measure on the early church? The disciples had bickered about which of them would be greatest and who would sit next to Jesus in the kingdom. But when they saw their Saviour dying on the cross, they realized that they were all guilty of forsaking Him.

After Christ ascended to heaven, they gathered in an upper room and prayed. There were many tears and apologies. They forgave one another. They prepared their heart. They prayed in one accord. Then the Holy Spirit came upon them. Just as they came together in one accord, so will the church in the final days receive the latter rain when God’s people repent and forgive one another.

From the Heart
To be clear, Jesus’ parable does not teach that God forgives us after we forgive each other. Quite the contrary, the Lord forgives us first. Indeed, you have no power within yourself to forgive others except as Christ has first forgiven you. The parable tells that the king first forgave his servant—he set the example he wished his people would follow—and then expected his servant to go and do likewise.

But the ungrateful servant did not have a forgiving spirit. He did not allow the compassion of the king to change his heart. When the servant wouldn’t forgive in turn, all that he owed was put back onto his account.

When Christ forgives us, we must walk in that same spirit. Yet forgiveness isn’t simply a legal transaction. Peter thought of it in a mechanical way, attempting to follow the letter of the law and completely overlooking God’s desire that we obey from the heart. When it is our motive to love and even forgive our enemies, only then will we reveal to others the most beautiful attributes of God.
The famous Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci was commissioned to paint a mural on a monastery dining hall in Milan, Italy. The result was The Last Supper, one of the most recognized and beloved works of art in the world. It depicts Jesus sitting with His disciples at a feast table just after He told them that one of them would betray Him. During the time da Vinci was working on the piece, he got into an argument with another famous Italian—Michelangelo. The biographer Vasari wrote that they had “an intense dislike for each other.” The two were jealous of each other’s work and often made disparaging comments about one another in public.

Legend has it that when the time came for Leonardo to paint the face of Judas in The Last Supper, he got the sinister idea of using the face of his rival, Michelangelo, to be the face of the betrayer. He felt it was a great way to immortalize how he felt about his enemy. People came by as he worked and gasped when they recognized the face of Michelangelo as Judas. Leonardo felt some temporary vindication.

But then came the last step in his grand artwork—painting the face of Jesus. As he tried to capture the image of Christ, he would paint His countenance but would feel dissatisfied and wipe it away. For the next few weeks, he did this over and over again. He had Jesus’ body completed, but he couldn’t create the right face—that magnificent countenance of mercy and kindness.

In desperation Leonardo prayed that he could paint the face that would express the love and compassion of Christ. “Lord, help me to see Your face,” he pleaded with God.

Finally, a voice spoke to his heart, saying, “You will never see the face of Jesus until you change the face of Judas.” Leonardo was convicted. He thought about Jesus on the cross praying for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him, and about how offended he himself had been by petty insults. He erased Michelangelo’s face and painted the image we see today. Only when Leonardo let go of his bitterness toward Michelangelo and removed the offense could he clearly paint the image of Christ.

Some of us cannot see the face of Jesus because we refuse to forgive our enemies. We are so determined to pay people back that all we can see is what they have done wrong. We are the ungrateful servant, demanding our debtors pay up in full, yet our vengeful hearts keep us from fully seeing Christ and receiving His forgiveness.

Do you need to erase the face of an enemy in your life? Do you need to write a
letter, make a phone call, or talk with someone who has wounded you? It is time to let it go. The moment has come to say, “I forgive you.” Perhaps it begins by you asking forgiveness. Either way, when you strike out the person’s debt, you will see the face of your compassionate King. Amen
12.0 What it means to be justified?

Justified is another powerful word used in the Bible to describe and relate to forgiveness of our sins and restoration of our relationship with God.

Romans 5:1 King James Version (KJV)
5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

If we take the word justified in this verse, and look it up we are given the Greek word dikaioo, which means:

**Strong's #1344**: dikaioo (pronounced dik-ah-yo'-o)

from 1342; to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:--free, justify(-ier), be righteous.

**Thayer's Greek Lexicon**: dikaioō

1) to render righteous or such he ought to be

2) to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered

3) to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

If we take the word justified in this verse, it means, "to render (that is to show or regard as) just or innocent: - free, justify (-ier), be righteous."

When a person is justified, he or she is made innocent, received by God in his innocence as if we have never sinned. AMEN. Is this not exceedingly great news for us all? This is the very reason that we can live a new life in Lord Jesus Christ, because when we have repented of our sins, we are made right with God and have the righteousness of God upon us and in us. Righteousness of God is upon us? That's right! Look at this...

Romans 3:22-24 King James Version (KJV)

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
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This is often referred to as part of the divine exchange. Christ was punished for our sins, so that we can receive forgiveness, He was given our shame so that we can receive His righteousness. Amen and Praise the Lord. It is all through God’s grace, kindness, favour, goodwill and love we are made righteous in the sight of God through the shed blood of Lord Jesus Christ.
13.0 Living a life in Christ Jesus

**Galatians 2:20 King James Version (KJV)**

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

After we have repented, confessed and turned away from our sins, and believe upon Lord Jesus Christ and the work that He has done for us on the cross, upon His death and resurrection, our life is in Christ Jesus and we are identified with Him and in His righteousness, thereby being set free from guilt and condemnation. For the scriptures say that those who are in Lord Jesus Christ they are dead to sin and there is no condemnation awaiting them:

**Romans 8:1 King James Version (KJV)**

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

In Roman's chapter 6, we learn that our old self was crucified with Christ and buried with Him, and we are raised to new life in Christ Jesus:

**Romans 6:3-6 King James Version (KJV)**

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

When we are raised to the new life in Lord Jesus Christ, being BORN AGAIN (see John 3), we are considered as being a new person; old things having passed away and all things becomes new:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 King James Version (KJV)**

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**1 Peter 1:23 King James Version (KJV)**

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
14.0 What happens in the New Birth?

John 3:3 King James Version (KJV)
3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus was and is speaking to all of us when He made this statement. Nicodemus was not a special case. You and I must be born again, or we will not see the kingdom of God. That means we will not be saved; we will not be part of God’s family, and not go to heaven, our names will not be written in the Lambs Book of Life, but instead will be destined to hell.

Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees, the most religious Jewish leaders. Jesus said to them in:
Matthew 23:15 King James Version (KJV)
15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Matthew 23:33 King James Version (KJV)
33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

It is central theme of life in Lord Jesus Christ. Eternity hangs in the balance when we are talking about the new birth for “Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

What is this Kingdom of God Jesus is talking about? He is talking about the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom Power is in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is talking about God’s Rule and Reign in peoples life. The basic meaning of the word *kingdom* in the Bible is God’s reflecting in His *reign*. It is R-E-I-G-N — not *realm* or *people*. The kingdom creates a realm (or monarchy, dominion, territory or an empire), the kingdom creates people, but the kingdom of God is not synonymous with its realm or its people.

What did Jesus preach? He preached Kingdom of God. What did Jesus ask us to pray for?

What did Jesus asked us to pray about:

Matthew 6:9-13 King James Version (KJV)
9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Jesus asked us to pray for the “kingdom” to come.

In verse 13 Jesus is saying “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory”

We were empty as God had taken His Spirit away from man because God could not dwell in man because of sin:

Genesis 6:3 King James Version (KJV)
3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Jesus main mission on this earth was to re-establish “the Kingdom of God in the hearts of people” That is the main reason Jesus says:

Matthew 6:33 King James Version (KJV)
33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.

2. And HIS righteousness.

There is a person here - Kingdom of God and His. Kingdom of God is the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom of God is gloriously revealed in crucified and risen king, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:16-20 King James Version (KJV)
16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Kingdom of God is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is Lord Jesus Christ in infinite power.

Lord Jesus Christ:

Lord –the Father
Jesus – earthly name of the Father

Christ – The Holy Spirit

Psalm 103:19 King James Version (KJV)

19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

You can hear the basic meaning of the word *kingdom* as *rule*. It doesn’t mean that his kingdom rules over his realm; it means that God’s reign or rule governs all things in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

God sits as king on his throne of the universe, and his kingly rule reigning over our lives with his actions, his lordship and his sovereign governance through the Holy Spirit given back into our lives by Lord Jesus Christ.
15.0 The True Repentance

True repentance is to "Go and sin no more"

**Luke 13:3 King James Version (KJV)**
3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish

In the above verse, the word "repent" goes back to the Greek word metanoeo, which means, "to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction)." To repent of a sin is not simply to confess it as sin, but to actually turn from it and change your mind about it.

**John 8:11 King James Version (KJV)**
11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

In Ephesians, those who have stolen are told to go and steal no more:

**Ephesians 4:28 King James Version (KJV)**
28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
First off, let me say that if we had to go back and make right every wrong we have ever committed, that would lay an unbearable (if not impossible) burden on countless people who have lived a worldly lifestyle for many years, and this is certainly not the burden that Jesus laid on those whose sins were forgiven in the New Testament. Jesus said that those who are labouring under heavy burden (remember, Jesus wasn't speaking of a physical burden here, but a spiritual or soulish burden - I believe this clearly referring to guilt), are to come to Him where they will find rest, peace and forgiveness.

Matthew 11:28 King James Version (KJV)

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

If a 60 year old man or a 90 year or a 120 year old man, on the point of death, comes to Jesus after a very sinful life, how could he possibly rest if there was no way that he could ever undo all the evil he had done throughout his lifetime? But yet, Jesus made it clear that if those who are heavy laden come to Him, He will give them rest.

Let us take a look at a few examples of sinners who were forgiven their sins.

Jesus told of a tax collector (notorious for stealing and being unfair to others) who was justified at the temple...

Luke 18:10-14 King James Version (KJV)

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

In the above verse, the Greek root word for justified means to be just as if you have never sinned!

Another example of this is found in Luke 3, when crooked tax collectors approached John the Baptist and asked what they should do:
Luke 3:12-13 King James Version (KJV)
12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?
13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

This all lines up with what Paul says in Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:28 King James Version (KJV)
28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

When we first meet Paul his hands are dripping with the blood of Christians. He went about killing fathers, husbands, children, etc. Did he ever go back to apologize to the victim's families? Paul never went to anybody (that we know of) to make any wrongs right, but rather repented of his old ways, turned to God and moved forward with the gospel. If you think about it, every husband, father he had killed, caused a home to lose their breadwinner, so he likely caused financial problems for many Christian homes. Paul never went back and repaid for all the losses he caused when he was persecuting the Christians.

Some of the disciples were fishermen, and in those days, fishermen were usually among the lower class and unfair in their business practices. If it were important for them to make their wrongs right, don’t you think that Jesus would have instructed them to go back and make those wrongs right before coming to follow Him? But rather, He merely told them to repent and come follow Him!

Matthew 4:19 King James Version (KJV)
19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

The woman caught in the very act of adultery (see John 8:3-11) was forgiven free and clear without having to go back to the injured wives, and apologize for what she had done. She was set free and cleared of her sins with no strings attached! According to the OT law, a woman who lived this lifestyle was to be put to death!!

Another women in Luke 7 was said to have lived a very sinful lifestyle, yet she was also forgiven in one sweep and was never told to go back and make any wrongs right. I'm sure that anybody who has lived a sinful lifestyle has likely stolen or cheated others at some time or another during his or her life.

Luke 7:47-48 King James Version (KJV)
47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.
48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.
In Matthew 9, Jesus forgave a man of all his sins, and gave no further instruction to make wrongs right...

**Matthew 9:2 King James Version (KJV)**

2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

It is not preached to repent and seek forgiveness from all the people who we have ever wronged... but rather to repent and believe upon the Lord Jesus and the work that He did on the cross for the remission of our sins:

**Mark 1:15 King James Version (KJV)**

15 And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

**Restitution because of love**

Though we aren't commanded to make all of our wrongs right with those we have wronged, we are commanded to love one another. I believe that there are times when the love of Christ working through you, will convict you to return something you may have stolen, or go ask somebody for their forgiveness, simply because it is fulfilling Jesus' command to love.

**Matthew 22:37-40 King James Version (KJV)**

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

I believe the story of Zacchaeus is a good example of a person wilfully -out of the love of their heart- doing something to restore where they have wronged. Jesus never told him to repay anything, but Zacchaeus wanted to repay 4 times what he stole:

**Luke 19:8-9 King James Version (KJV)**

8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.
Dear child of most High God, when we realize how precious and costly that the gift of God is, it will change the way we think, the way we live and will empower us to live a new and transformed life in Christ! It should motivate us to walk in love, as we are loved, and do unto others as Jesus has done for us. Once we realize the love of God for us, it should prompt us to treat others as we would like to be treated!

**Romans 13:8** King James Version (KJV)

*Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

**Reconciliation because of love**

Now I do believe that there are times when it is important to do what we can to mend broken relationships. The Bible tells us to be at peace with all men whenever possible.

**Romans 12:18** King James Version (KJV)

*If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

If we have wronged our brother, and refuse to be reconciled with him, then turn around and expect God to honour our worship, I believe we are only fooling ourselves. We cannot expect to have a close relationship with God, and yet neglect our relationships with other fellow believers.

**Matthew 5:23-24** King James Version (KJV)

*Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hast ought against thee;*

*24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

The Bible is clear that if we love God, we will also love our brethren as well:

**1 John 4:21** King James Version (KJV)

*And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

**1 John 1:7** King James Version (KJV)

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Our goal should never be to rush into the room, yell, "I'm sorry!" and run away; **our goal is to be reconciled with that person as a result of your love for them.** Now if we go to somebody, and they are not willing to forgive or be reconciled, then the responsibility is off your shoulders. Don't hold it against yourself if you were unable
to restore the relationship. It takes two people to be reconciled and you cannot force that other person to forgive.

I want to make it clear that this does not mean we have to go back to every person we’ve ever wronged and apologize (that would be legalism), nor does it mean that we should live at peace with others even if it causes us to compromise with their lifestyle. Jesus was not afraid to make enemies if they were out of line and doing what was wrong. The goal here is that if somebody was wounded by your wrongdoing, then your goal is to love them as Christ loved you, and that may mean going to them and attempting to restore the broken relationship.
17.0 Our Clean Conscience!

We are entitled to a clean conscience!

Because of the costly work that Christ did for us on the cross, we can be forgiven of our sins, and the stain of guilt removed. So much so, that God’s Word states clearly that we can enter the throne room with boldness because our sins are removed from our account!

Hebrews 10:2, 19,22 sums it all:

Hebrews 10:2 King James Version (KJV)
\[2\text{ For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.}\]

Hebrews 10:19 King James Version (KJV)
\[19\text{ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,}\]

Hebrews 10:22 King James Version (KJV)
\[22\text{ Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.}\]

This is all very powerful child of God. VERY powerful! This means that because of the work that Jesus did for us on the cross, you and I are entitled to a GUILT FREE conscience!!

Colossians 1:22-23 King James Version (KJV)
\[22\text{ In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:}\]
\[23\text{ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;}\]
Jonah’s Prayer for Salvation (Jonah 2:2–9)

We may never be swallowed by a great fish, but we can still experience the shame and regret that Jonah felt after he ran from God. The prophet’s plea to the Father provides a poignant scaffolding for our own prayers of repentance. And remember that God heard and answered this humble, honest prayer:

“In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. “Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”
DEAR FRIENDS OUR TRUE FORGIVENESS IS AT THE VERY FOOT OF THE CROSS