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### July 2024 “Forgiven and Forgiving”

Dear Friend,

What do you know about God’s forgiveness? When you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, which of your sins were forgiven? If you have sinned since you became a Christian and asked God to forgive you, did He? How many of your past sins is God still holding against you? No doubt some Christians would reply, “Brother Martin, are you serious? Do you not know what God has said? Why don’t you take a look at scripture?”

*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses (Colossians 2:13)*

*6To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:6-7)*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 8:12)*

So then, you’re saying that because of your faith in Jesus Christ to be born again God has forgiven you of every sin you ever committed, forgives you of every sin you now commit when you sincerely confess it and repent, and never holds any sin against you for which He has forgiven you. “Yes, Brother Martin, that is exactly right!”

Living every day with such knowledge has to be encouraging. But what about these verses,

*12Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (Colossians 3:12-13)*

Since you believe God has forgiven you of all sins and trespasses, and you expect Him to do so from now on, do you hold yourself to the same standard? You had asked me to consider scripture about how God has forgiven you, I ask you to consider these verses about forgiving others:

*9After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11Give us this day our daily bread. 12And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. 14For if ye forgive men their*

*trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:9-15)*

*22And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. (Mark 11:22-26)*

*21Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

*23Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25But 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. 26The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.*

*28But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.*

*31So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32Then 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: 33Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.*

*35So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses. (Matthew 18:21-35)*

Do you believe God's Word? Do you believe He cannot lie? Do you believe what He says will come to pass? If you answer "yes" to these questions but do not believe the above verses apply to Christians today, you are in serious trouble. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 that we are to live by every word that proceeds from God. That would include these passages about forgiving others. Furthermore, consider that this instruction to forgive cannot be separated from a commandment God has given to every Believer.

*34A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:34-35)*

*7Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. (1 John 4:4-11)*

*14We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

*(1 John 3:14-15)*

Here's what have we've learned so far:

- 1) If we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us of our sins.
- 2) If we don't forgive others their sins against us, God will turn us over to tormenters.
- 3) If we don't forgive others as we've been forgiven, we're breaking His commandment.
- 4) If we do not love as God loves us (which leads us to forgiving all who have done us wrong), we do not walk in fellowship with God, no matter what we think.
- 5) If we do not love as God loves us, God calls it hate, equates it to being a murderer, and declares we are abiding in death, having no eternal life within.

Quite frankly, if you do not grasp that unforgiveness is possibly the most serious sin a Christian can commit, you are walking in severe spiritual blindness. You want – and even expect – God to forgive you, but you are refusing to forgive in the way you want to be forgiven. You are living in a world of self-deception by thinking you can carry unforgiveness with you before the judgment seat of Christ and be welcomed with open arms into a glorious eternity with Him.

A pastor friend of mine was at the hospital bedside of a lady who had but a short time remaining in this life. Though this lady absolutely professed Jesus as Savior, she had for a long time been holding unforgiveness toward someone who had wronged her. The pastor pleaded, begged and implored her to forgive, but the lady refused and said, “No, I will not forgive (that person).” Moments later, the lady's eyes suddenly opened wide, her face contorted with sheer terror, she sat up and began screaming in horror, “NO! NO! NO!” then fell back dead. Believe what you will, but that is definitely NOT the way a person passes from this life into eternity with Jesus.

There are Christians who have been raped, beaten, shot, robbed, unfairly fired from jobs, molested as children, unjustly incarcerated, cheated on by a spouse, falsely accused of sinful behavior, betrayed by close friends or family, and much more. It is very possible you are one of those Christians. You may be struggling with anger and unforgiveness toward those who've done you wrong. Do you want to be right with God? Do you want to be in true fellowship with Him? Do you want the joy of the Lord to be your strength? Then forgive without reservation, even if the offender never asks for forgiveness. This is the pattern of Christ. If you don't think you can forgive, ask God to help you; it is His life in you which bears the spiritual fruit of unconditional forgiveness. I'm closing this letter with a prophecy the Lord once gave during a church service.

In His Grace,

*Jim*

## God's Love, Mercy, and Grace (PD090517B)

My mercy and My grace are greatly misunderstood by My Church. I am Love, therefore I am Mercy and I am Grace. And the depth of My love, the depth of My mercy is so difficult for My Church to understand. And yes, I speak to My Church, for I do not expect the lost to even begin to understand My love and My mercy the way My Church can.

And I say to you that I look into your heart and I see the level of mercy and grace and love that you are walking in. There are many in My Church who struggle greatly to understand how I could demonstrate love and mercy and compassion and forgiveness to the Hitler's of your world, to the Saddam Hussein's, to the child molesters, and to the murderers.

And there are many of you who in your heart and mind and even with your words have said they ought to take such people and do to them what they have done to the other people. And yet I would ask you is that what you see in My Word? For did not My Son even refute that teaching when He talked about, you have heard it said to do unto others as they have done to you, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? And yet He said to love and forgive those who have done wrong.

This was a difficult thing for those who heard Him say that, but they were lost. And here My Church is today wanting vengeance, wanting to see bodily harm done to those who have done wrong. It is very important for you to understand, you make it extremely difficult for Me to pour into you an anointing of power when you have those attitudes in your heart. You need to understand that when My Son hung on that Cross, He was hanging there for the Hitler's, the Saddam Hussein's, and the child molesters and all others who have done wrong.

This may come as a surprise to you, but I do not have a problem extending love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness to those kinds of people. That is because I am God. And you may say "Yes, but I'm not God, so therefore, I can't do this." But I would correct you on that matter, because you see, in My Word I instruct you to conform to the image of My Son. And My Son said if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. Therefore, if you are conforming to the image of My Son, you will be conforming to the image of love and mercy and grace and forgiveness.

With an attitude of unforgiveness that is so often demonstrated in My Church, is it any wonder that so many lost people have yet to accept Jesus? For when the lost hear you talking about what you would do to the Hitler's, the Saddam Hussein's, the child molesters, and others, how is it possible for you to then turn around and talk to them about My love, My mercy, My grace, and My forgiveness? Are you starting to see what I see? Are you starting to understand this?

And do not say in your heart "But it's just too difficult for me to forgive. It's just too difficult for me to understand. It's just too hard to Me to accept this." Because when you say those things and when you ponder on those things in your heart, you are thinking with human reasoning and human rationale.

And did I not say in My Word that My thoughts are higher than yours and that My ways are higher than yours? I also said you have the mind of Christ, which means you have the ability to think thoughts that line up with My thoughts and to demonstrate ways that line up with My ways.

If you want to see more of the lost won into My Kingdom, you have no choice but to demonstrate the unconditional love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness that I demonstrated to you. This is not an option.

And now you need to know this: throughout your life as a Christian, there are many that you have turned away from the Cross because of your attitude, because of the way you have spoken, because of the way that you have demonstrated unforgiveness toward people that the world says are unforgivable and beyond hope.

I want you to know I desire to work My love in and through you. You must want to come to the place of loving as I love, forgiving as I forgive, and extending mercy and grace as I extend mercy and grace. You must want to come to that place, for until you want to come to that place you will not come to that place.

And your words alone are not sufficient. The attitude of your heart must be “I want to be like My Father. I want to demonstrate His characteristics to the world.” For you see, in My Word I have said that I do not want to see any perish. I want to see all come to salvation. This must be your attitude as well.

And I say to you in human terms, you will be very shocked at some of the people you see in Heaven. You will be very shocked at some of the people I chose to save. But did I not say in My Word that all who call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved? You need to rejoice that My desire to save people is not based on your attitude toward them, because some of them would never have been saved.

I am God. I created humanity for fellowship with Me, and I am ready and willing to forgive everyone for everything they have ever done. That is the power of the blood of My Son. And so I ask you please, please desire to have this kind of love and forgiveness and mercy and grace operating in you and extending from you to others as it flows from Me to humanity. When you do, you will come to the place of understanding Me better and knowing Me closer than you ever have before. And it will make it much, much easier for Me to release into you an ever-increasing flow of anointing and power.

So know this: I love you unconditionally and I want you to love others unconditionally as well. I am God and I am Love.

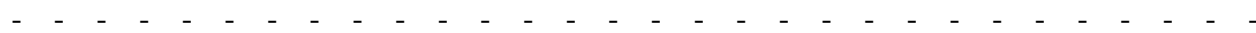


**SPECIAL NOTICE**

1) I was recently asked if our ministry provides consultants, lawyers or others knowledgeable to assist in preparing both personal retirement plans and inheritance programs for family members. We do not have anyone on staff or in a volunteer position offering such services. Likewise, we do not have a relationship with any financial consulting firm which we would recommend.

2) In a previous letter I shared that we sometimes receive requests from people asking us to add friends or family members to our mailing list. As much as we appreciate your interest in those people receiving my letters, unless those individuals contact our ministry on their own we will not add them to the mailing list.

3) I have been asked about the end-time prophecy series I taught in February 2020 at the Family Prayer Center in Immokalee, Florida. There were six sermons in that series, all of which are available at our website, [jmmgrace.com](http://jmmgrace.com), and can be downloaded as MP3 audio files or viewed by clicking on the video link. Listening to those sermons is good, but it is far better to watch the videos because I use a lot of very helpful PowerPoint presentations during the sermons.



\_\_\_\_Please send me the companion sermon to this letter, *The Sin of Unforgiveness*.

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