

“Living the Spirit Formed Life: Walking in Forgiveness”

I. EMBRACING A SPIRITUAL TRAINING PLAN

- **1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)** “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly.**”
 - **1 Timothy 4:7b-8 (NLT)** “*Spend your time and energy in TRAINING yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but SPIRITUAL exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next.*”
 - **1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV)** *25 Everyone who competes in the games GOES into STRICT TRAINING. They do it to get a crown that will not last; BUT WE DO IT to get a CROWN that will last FOREVER.*
- A. The **first** fundamental discipline of Spiritual Training is a commitment to hearing **GOD’S VOICE.**
- B. A **second** fundamental discipline that will enable us to develop the Spirit Formed Life is to walk in a spirit of **FORGIVENESS.**
1. The meaning of the word "forgiveness" (**aphesis <af'-es-is>**) is: “to **DISMISS**, to **RELEASE**, to **LEAVE** or **ABANDON.**”
 2. The word forgiveness **also** has the meaning to **RESTORE** someone **BACK** to their **ORIGINAL CONDITION.**
- C. When we think of OUR FORGIVENESS must come to the **CROSS.**

II. AT THE CROSS WE SEE THE NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

- A. We see **Jesus** led out with the **WORST** kind of **PEOPLE.**
- **Luke 23:32 (NIV)** “Two other men, **both criminals,** were also led out with him...”
 - **Luke 5:8 (NIV)** [When **Simon Peter** saw Jesus perform one of his **first miracles** he] “*fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; **I am a sinful man!**”*
 - **Isaiah 6:1-5 (NKJV)** *In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,** high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two*

*he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: “**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!**” ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ **So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips,** And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”*

1. The **CLOSER** you get to **JESUS** the more you are conscience of how **BAD** a person you REALLY ARE.
 - **1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV)** ...“*Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**”—and I am the worst of them all.”*
 2. If we **struggle** with **guilt** feelings of being far from perfect the **DEVIL** will ONLY make it **WORSE.**
 - **Romans 3:10 (NKJV)** “As it is written: “*There is none righteous, no, not one;*”
 - **Romans 3:23 (NKJV)** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- B. We see **Jesus** led out to the **WORST** kind of **PLACE**
Luke 23:33 (NIV) “*When they came to the place called the Skull...*”
- C. **Jesus** was led out to the **WORST** kind of **PUNISHMENT.**
Luke 23:33 (NIV) “*When they came to the place called the Skull, There they crucified him...*”

III. AT THE CROSS WE SEE THE PLACE OF FORGIVENESS

- **Luke 23:34 (NIV)** “*Jesus SAID, **Father, forgive them,** for they do not know what they are doing.”*
- A. It’s the **WILL** of **Christ** that we are **FORGIVEN.**
- **Luke 23:34 (NIV)** “***Jesus SAID,** Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*
1. The words “**Jesus SAID**” are better translated “*Jesus CONTINUALLY prayed*”. IN OTHER WORDS no matter how much **WORSE** it got for **Jesus** he **NEVER CHANGED** His **WILL** that we be **FORGIVEN.**

2. We tend to *only go so far* and then **STOP** forgiving and by us **LIMITING** our forgiveness we naturally **THINK** God **DOES** the **SAME** with **HIS** forgiveness.
- **Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)** “Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”
3. God forgives us **EVERY TIME** we **ASK** for forgiveness so WE NEED to forgive **OTHERS EVERY TIME** they ask for **OUR FORGIVENESS**.
- B. It is also the **WORD** of **Jesus** that we are FORGIVEN. **Luke 23:34 (NIV)** **Jesus SAID** “Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing.”
- **1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NIV)** “Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶**But for that very reason** I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience **as an example for those who would believe on him** and receive eternal life.”
 - **1 John 2:1-2 (CEV)** “My children, I am writing this so that you won’t sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, **and he will speak to the Father for us**. ²Christ is the sacrifice **that takes away our sins** and the sins of all the world’s people.”
- C. Because of the **WORK** of **Jesus** on the **CROSS** we can **experience** FORGIVENESS from God.
- **Isaiah 53:4-6 (NIV)** “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; **and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**”
 - **Isaiah 43:25 (NIV)** “**I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions**, for my own sake, **and remembers your sins no more.**”
 - **Matthew 26:27-28 (NIV)** “Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸**This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**”

- **Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)** “In him we have **redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace”
- D. As forgiven people we also have a responsibility to **DISPENSE** forgiveness to **OTHERS**.
- **John 20:23 (NKJV)** “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

IV. HOW DO I RECEIVE FORGIVENESS?

- A. First, YOU must **REALIZE** that YOU are a **SINNER** in NEED of FORGIVENESS.
- B. Second, YOU must **UNDERSTAND** that it is God’s **WILL**, God’s **WORD** and God’s **WORK** that YOU CAN be FORGIVEN.
- C. Third, YOU must **REPENT** and **CONFESS** YOUR SINS.
- **Acts 3:19 (NIV)** “**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out**, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”
 - **2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)** “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish **but that all should come to repentance.**”
 - **1 John 1:9 (NKJV)** “**If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and just **to forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- D. Fourth, YOU must put YOUR in **FAITH** in His **CLEANSING BLOOD** for FORGIVENESS. **1 John 1:7 (NKJV)** “... and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- E. Fifth, you must **BELIEVE** that you **RECEIVE** forgiveness the moment you **ASK** in faith.
- **John 1:12 (NKJV)** “**But as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, **to those who believe** in His name:”