

THE *Spirit of Life*

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Forgiveness is a Choice

When we repent, our sins are forgiven and forgotten. They are completely erased by the blood of Christ. We are delivered from guilt and condemnation, free from Satan's control. However, if God has done this for us, and delivered us from the punishment of Hell and eternal separation from Him, we should be willing to forgive others who sin against us.

When we receive Christ, the enemy comes and sows tares in our heart through false teachers and traditions of men. Many of these false teachers will take advantage of you. They will use you and take your money, abuse you, even strike you. They lie in wait to make young believers serve them. As a result of these things, the young believers are offended and some fall away. They are unable to forgive those that offended them. No matter how hard they try, they cannot overcome the anger and bitterness they feel. They try to put it out of their mind, but eventually it comes back. They know that God said if they don't forgive neither will they be forgiven.

If this is you, and you left the church because of this, let me remind you that forgiveness is a choice, it is not a feeling or emotion. We must make the choice to forgive in spite of how we feel. If we will pray, "Father, forgive my sins as I forgive those who sin against me," in obedience to God, doing what He tells us regardless of how we feel, He will change the way we feel.

Pray for those who spitefully used you and it won't take long for the bad feelings to go away.

Forgiveness frees us to love.