

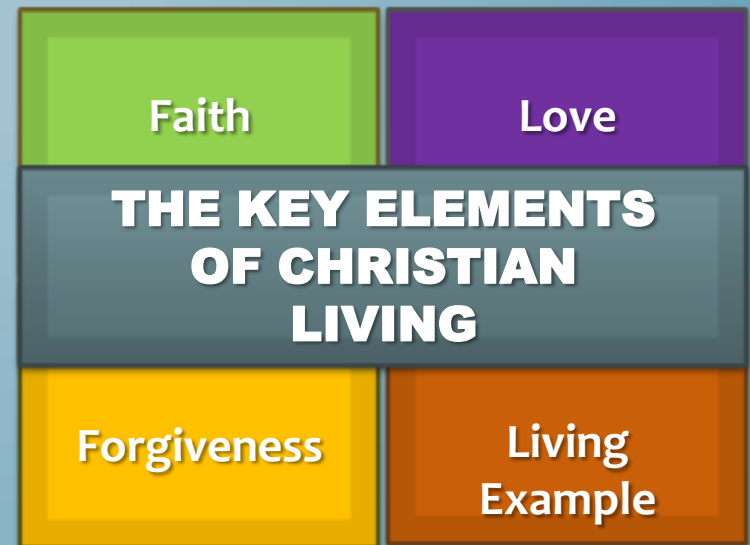
# THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

*God Company Sri Lanka*

# This study...

is an extension to The Key Elements of Christian Living presentation. The Four Key elements are being presented as four separate presentations. This is the third after Power of Love

The Power of Faith  
The Power of Love  
The Power of Forgiveness  
The Living Example



## THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

## **WHAT IS MEANT BY FORGIVENESS:**

*The Oxford Dictionary defines forgiveness as: 'to grant free pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt'.*

*When someone harms us, society has enabled many recourse of action to receive some form of compensation for the transgression. It is considered a “right” to seek “justice”.*

*We are affronted when our personal self is hurt both mentally or physically. It is a natural human reaction to form anger and seek vengeance in some form or the other.*

*Forgiveness is defined as the ability to grant pardon without harboring resentment.*

## **CHRISTIANS & FORGIVENESS:**

*There are two types of Forgiveness that is extremely important for Christians.*

- *Receiving God's Forgiveness for our Sins,*
- *Our obligation to reciprocate forgiveness to others.*

*Jesus Christ brought us the possibility for obtaining Gods forgiveness for our Sins. And he also instructed us to Forgive others so that God may forgive us our sins.*

*John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

## RECEIVING GODS PARDON / FORGIVENESS

*Jesus' greatest gift for mankind is the possibility of receiving Gods Forgiveness for our Sins and with it the possibility for us to breakaway from living in Sin to start new life as a renewed person.*

*From the very inception, humanity has been seeped in Sin. But Christians have been provided with this wonderful possibility by Jesus to get Redemption of our Sins. The slate that is scarlet with sin completely wiped clean. We can receive Gods forgiveness and start a new beginning and a new life.*

*All you need to do is have Faith in Jesus, repent for your sinfulness and turn away from Sin to start a new life blessed with Salvation... a beginning of a journey that will enable us to achieve Gods Kingdom... and see Jesus in person!*

***Faith in Jesus, Repentance, Salvation...***

**John 14:6**

***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***

## **JESUS CAME TO SAVE THE SINNERS**

- *Jesus died for our sins - because of His love for mankind. By that act our sins were forgiven.*
- *Jesus' sacrifice was necessary to satisfy God's justice. As our creator God loved us too much to let us destroy ourselves.*
- *He provided a way for us to be forgiven, through Jesus...his only begotten son.*

*Mark 2:17*

*On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

## JESUS IS THE KEY TO OUR SALVATION

- *Humanity had no hope due to our sinfulness. Through Jesus we have received the possibility of receiving FORGIVENESS FOR ALL OUR SINS – if we want that Freedom!*
- *Therefore what Jesus said about Forgiveness is very important for us to obtain a deeper understanding of this vital act for Christians.*
- **Jesus said: WE MUST FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN**

*<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins - Jesus (Matthew 6)*



## **FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN - JESUS**

- *We have to learn to forgive because it does not occur in us Naturally*
- *When someone hurts us physically or mentally our natural tendency is to react vengefully. Harbor a grudge... plot or wish for various harm to befall such a person... or resort to physical force to attempt harming the person in response... even murder. And all this allows for sin to enter our lives.*
- *Since forgiveness goes against our nature, WE HAVE TO LEARN TO FORGIVE BY THE POWER OF FAITH AND LOVE that we develop living a good Christian life...*

*Forgiveness is an important choice we make as Christians through a decision of our will, motivated by Jesus' command to forgive so that we too can receive forgiveness.*



## **FORGIVENESS THE FIRST PRIORITY...**

- **For Christians the act of forgiveness is an absolute necessity.**
- *Because without receiving forgiveness from God for our own sins, we remain tainted with Sin and therefore we cannot even stand in His holy presence to accede our requests to Him.*
- **To receive forgiveness we must forgive. It is very clear. This requirement is stated many times by Jesus in His teachings. Therefore we have to LEARN TO FORGIVE by going against our natural tendency.**

### **Mark 11:25**

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

### **Luke 6:37**

*Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

## DIFFICULTY OF FORGIVING

- **"Forgiveness is to set a prisoner free, and to realize the prisoner was you."- Corrie Boom, Nazi concentration Camp survivor of Holocaust**  
**Generally: MORE HURT--> MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGIVE**  
**The degree of hurt can be mental or physical or both in some cases.**
- The difficulty of forgiveness depends generally on the degree of hurt caused. The difficulty of forgiving could differ depending on the individual
- **But... even if we are hurt - for whatever the reason - Christians are required to forgive those who have wronged us, so that our wrongs to God may be forgiven by Him.**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times Matthew 18

## HOW TO LEARN FORGIVENESS

- **Refusing or finding it difficult to forgive leaves an open wound in our soul that is found to fester into bitterness, resentment, and finally even to depression. You become a prisoner inside your own mind mentally savoring the bitter sweetness of vengeful thoughts regarding the perpetrator/s. It will lead to sin entering our life in thought and deed.**
- *For our own good, and the good of the person who hurt us, we simply must forgive. Just as we have Faith in Jesus for Salvation, we have to have Faith in Him that He will heal our wound, enable us to cope and make it right when we forgive.*
- **Believe me it becomes quite easy after the first couple of times and gives you a feeling of absolute freedom that transcends human logic...**

**- Author of this presentation.**

**Luke 17:4** *Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must **forgive** them."*

**- JESUS**

## **FORGIVENESS WILL SET YOU FREE...**

- **Forgiveness does not mean that we take the blame or that we deny what was done to us was wrong. Instead, we forgive the person in our mind because of our Faith in Jesus and He requires us to do so.**
- *When we learn to forgive, negative ungodly thoughts of Anger and acts of vengeance - a huge stumbling block to our walk with God - will be removed.*
- **It's only then that we are able to receive the full measure of God's goodness - without feeling the weight of vengefulness and anger that darken the joy of living.**

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness** of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

**VENGEANCE  
DESTROYS  
THE JOY OF  
LIVING**



**If you don't Forgive  
and empty Evil out, it  
will take over your life**

**Remember,  
the glass  
is half  
full!  
ALREADY!**

A LIFE FILLED  
WITH  
ANGER  
HURT  
VENGEANCE  
CRUELTY  
EVIL THOUGHTS  
BITTERNESS  
RESENTMENT  
SIN

**FORGIVENESS**

**A  
QUALITY  
LIFE  
WITHOUT  
EVIL AND  
SIN**

**GODS  
FORGIVENESS**

**A NEW  
LIFE...  
A NEW  
PERSON**



## **FORGIVENESS GIVES JOY**

*Forgive and empty your soul from vengeful thoughts and actions to receive the full measure of God's goodness...*



**It will fill your life filled with Love, Joy and Happiness.**



## THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

- **Throughout Jesus' teachings we see the importance that He placed on Forgiveness.**
- Forgiveness requires two critically important elements of Christian living:
  - Faith
  - Love
- **You have to have absolute FAITH in Jesus to carryout His will – FORGIVE!**
- **You need to have LOVE in you to be able to FORGIVE.**

*The Power of Forgiveness stems from our Faith in Jesus and Love that enters our life through Salvation from Sin.*

## **FAITH IN JESUS**

**Christian Faith relates to a confident assurance of Salvation through Jesus Christ and being certain of His Guidance, protection and blessings upon our life(... and others whom we pray for).**

**Jesus tells us to FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN. As Christians we have to FAITHFULLY BELIEVE HIM or else we will remain sinners !**

**We have to forgive because Jesus tells us that our Salvation is dependent on our ability to Forgive those who have trespassed us.**

**: <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6**

## CHRISTIAN LOVE

- ***Love is the very basis and foundation of Christianity. Without having Love in our hearts - Christians are nothing .***
- *<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*  
*1 Corinthians 13*
- ***Christian Love that develops in our hearts will empower forgiveness to swell within us. Because...***

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*- 1 Corinthians 13*

## THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

- **God has not qualified one sin as being more serious to Him than another. His forgiveness is absolute. We can repent and seek His forgiveness**
- *Similarly God has not qualified one sin committed by us or against us as warranting forgiveness and another not.*
- **When we wrong God or others we have to repent and seek forgiveness. Similarly when someone wrongs us we in turn should forgive them.**

*The Power of Forgiveness stems from our Faith in Jesus and Love that enters our life through Salvation from Sin.*

## THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

- **When a Christian learns to Forgive, the person becomes stronger in spirit and is empowered with Godliness.**
- When we go against Gods laws we disturb the overall plan that He has laid out for humanity. The reason for the destruction that we have caused to each other and also to our fragile environment.
- Rampant Greed, Covetousness, deceit, adultery, murder, godlessness have directly contributed to all what has gone wrong in the world today.

*We need to stop and take account of our wrongs to God and also to our fellow man... repent and seek forgiveness and adopt a attitude of Forgiveness to others while living a life filled with Faith in Jesus, Christian Love and example.*

## ***GODS FORGIVENESS***

**Let me rekindle the readers attention on the need  
for Gods Forgiveness by referring to the  
Ten Commandments**

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not worship idols
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother:
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet

**Have you breeched any today...?**

**Have you reconciled with God for the numerous times that you may  
have breeched these in the past?**



## THE EMPHASIS ON FORGIVENESS

- ***I'm sure you have...***
- <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mark 11
- <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. - Luke 11
- We see the emphasis that Jesus placed on forgiveness to others. He requires us to forgive others in the same way we expect God to forgive us for our wrongs to Him.

Christians should adopt an attitude of Forgiveness simply because we too are badly in need of Gods Forgiveness for us...



## LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE



*Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

*Luke 23:34*

**AN ARTIST'S  
RENDITION OF  
WHAT JESUS  
SAW HANGING  
ON THE CROSS**



## THE VERY EXTREME OF FORGIVENESS

**After being whipped, assaulted, spat upon, ridiculed, humiliated, Crucified - one of the most long and painful methods of human execution... while hanging on the cross...**

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- Luke 23: 34

### **A similar example...**

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:

**WE  
PRAY...**

*Bear with each other and forgive  
one another if any of you has a  
grievance against someone.  
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.  
Colossians 3:13*

Thank you

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