



PROVERBS 31: 25

RELEASING WHAT YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO CARRY

Forgiveness Is Obedience, Not Agreement

 **SCRIPTURE FOCUS**

- Colossians 3:13
- 1 John 1:8-9
- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Mark 11:25
- Luke 17:3-4

 **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT**

Forgiveness is one of the most misunderstood acts of obedience. It does not mean the offense didn't matter. It does not mean the story was fair. And it certainly does not mean both sides will always come into agreement.

But Scripture is clear—forgiveness is not optional for the believer.

We are called to forgive:

- because we have been forgiven
- not because the other person deserves it
- but because grace was extended to us first.

 **FORGIVENESS IS NOT AGREEMENT**


“Bear with each other and forgive one another...” — Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is not a transaction. It is a posture.

There will be moments:

- where you release someone and they do not release you
- where you choose peace and they choose distance
- where obedience feels one-sided

And even then—God is still at work.

 **WHAT FORGIVENESS PRODUCES**


“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just...” — 1 John 1:9

Forgiveness reminds us of two truths at once:

- we have been wronged
- and we have also needed mercy

It humbles us. It softens us. It aligns us.


“FORGIVENESS IS NOT AGREEMENT.
It's obedience.


 **WHAT FORGIVENESS IS (AND IS NOT)**

“Get rid of all bitterness... forgiving each other...” — Ephesians 4:31-32


Forgiveness is not:

- ✗ denying the pain
- ✗ excusing the behavior
- ✗ removing accountability

→ **It is releasing what you were never meant to carry.**

 *“When you stand praying... forgive...” — Mark 11:25*

Because what we hold onto in our hearts affects how we stand before God.


 **A NECESSARY DISTINCTION**

“If they repent, forgive them...” — Luke 17:3-4

There is a difference between:


- forgiveness (which is commanded)
- reconciliation (which is built)

→ **One is obedience. The other requires mutual participation.**


 **FINAL REFLECTION**

Forgiveness is not agreement.
It is obedience.

And obedience is not about the outcome—it's about alignment with God.

 **JOURNAL PROMPT**

Is there someone I need to forgive—not because they earned it, but because God is calling me to release it?

 **PRAYER**

God,
 Help me to forgive the way You have forgiven me—not conditionally, not reluctantly, but obediently. Soften my heart where it has hardened. Heal what still aches. And teach me to release what I was never meant to carry. Give me the understanding that even when others do not take accountability for the hurt they have caused, I am still called to forgive. Teach me to continue to pray for them, trusting that You are still at work in their heart. Give me humility to offer an apology where You lead me to—even when I may not feel it is warranted—while still remaining rooted in truth and guided by Your wisdom. Remind me that my responsibility is obedience—and the outcome belongs to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.