

SIX BIBLE VERSES FOR FORGIVENESS

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Last updated November 7, 2024

God taught me a hard lesson on forgiveness: It is a process, not an event. And, I have discovered in my walk with God that it is not so much about reaching forgiveness but more about what we are learning to grow *into* forgiveness. Have you ever had someone telling you that you “need to learn to forgive” but never could give you steps on how to get there? “Well, you have to give it to God.” How? “Well, you have to pray.” Okay. Been there, done that. Then, what? “...” I have learned that there is a mental and spiritual molding to forgiveness. I have found that these seven Scriptures help with getting grounded in our process of forgiving.

“With all thy getting, get understanding.” (Proverbs 4:7). It will surprise you how much you do not know about a person and their experiences until you gain understanding behind why they did what they did to you.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11). We spend more time dwelling on pain than we do on God’s Promises. Where God is taking you is bigger and better than what happened to you. While the world may not understand your experiences, they will also not understand your abundance. Since both are misunderstood, we can choose to focus on the better that God has for us. You are too chosen and anointed to keep the carrying the pain of yesterday. We may as well live in abundance of the things that the world does not understand.

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning” (Joel 2:12). Fasting is a great way to reach forgiveness because it pulls everything that the enemy is using to keep you tied to your hurt to the front of your spirit for you to confront.

“What have you gained by your alliances with Egypt and your covenants with Assyria? What good to you are the streams of the Nile or the waters of the Euphrates River?” (Jeremiah 2:18). What are you gaining by holding on to what God has clearly pulled you away from? To hold on to what the enemy clearly meant for destruction, what do you gain from it?

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:29). We have all done something we are not proud about. Part of forgiveness is having enough humility to know that we have not been fully innocent ourselves. If God forgave us for our sins, we lower ourselves enough to forgive our debtors.

Love conquers all wrong doings (Proverbs 10:12). Is forgiveness your issue, or is love your issue? Sometimes, we blame our struggle to forgive on the hurt that we experienced when the issue really is our ability to love. The Bible mentions *love* 657 times while only mentioning *forgive* 56 times. Obviously, there is more to the aspect of forgiveness than just forgiveness alone. Maybe our ability to love is what impacts our ability to forgive. To love someone past an offense quickly moves our spirits past the offense as well.