

## Help Me to Forgive

*Peter said, "If my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive?" Jesus said, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." (from Matthew 18: 21,22)*

"Forgive my sins," I pray to God  
But often do forget,  
If others have on my heart trod,  
My anger can't be set.  
The Lord forgives, but in return  
Asks that I do the same.  
The joy and peace for which I yearn  
Extends to all – no blame.

We learn about earned retribution  
And getting even, too,  
But in Christ's world, that's no solution:  
Revenge will never do!  
When we hold grudges in our heart,  
We're bound by heavy chains.  
God's healing grace can have no start,  
And only pain remains.

In other's punishments and pain  
We never should take joy,  
For God's sweet mercy will remain  
For us to share, employ.  
Let us reach out in love and grace  
As we like Christ will live;  
Let healing all our hurt replace.  
Lord, help us to forgive. Patti Miller

