



## FORGIVENESS Pt. 6-*THE ART OF FORGIVENESS*

***“But like everything else in the Christian life, forgiving others is much more than what-fors and how-comes. Ours is an active faith.***

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**Nancy Leigh DeMoss-“*Choosing Forgiveness*”**

- 🌐 **Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary**-Term used to indicate pardon for a fault or offense; to excuse form payment for a debt owed.
- 🌐 **Art**-Skill acquired by experience, study, or observation.

**Intro:** In this lesson we are about to move into a place of wisdom. This is where we take all the knowledge we’ve attained thus far and put it into practice by applying it. Before we dive into the practicality of forgiveness, let’s examine **five key reasons** that illustrate the importance of doing so.

- 🌐 **Choosing Forgiveness** allows us to live the kind of life God intended for us (*Romans 14:17 “For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.”*).
- 🌐 **Choosing Forgiveness** gives us the freedom to bless others.
- 🌐 **Choosing Forgiveness** allows us to walk unhindered by bitterness and resentment (*Hebrews 12:14-15 “<sup>14</sup> Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord <sup>15</sup> Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled”*).
- 🌐 **Choosing Forgiveness** gives us the joy of being able to relate confidently with God and with people around us (*Matthew 5:23-24 “<sup>23</sup> Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remeberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come offer thy gift”*).
- 🌐 **Choosing Forgiveness** presents us as a living and walking display of the Gospel and Grace of Christ.

***Below is a tool you can use in order to begin the process of Choosing To Forgive.***

Name	<b>What They've Done</b> <i>*Only list what is clear in your mind and needs to be dealt with. It may be harmful to "conjure up memories that God may have mercifully removed."</i>	How I've Responded

**3 Practical Steps To "Jumpstart" The Art Of Forgiveness**

1. **Column 1=Identify The People Who Have Wronged You And the Way(s) The Have Sinned Against You. Why? You may ask.**
  - a. True Forgiveness is about ***facing the reality of the offense*** and handling it God's Way!
  
2. **Column 2=Make Sure Your Conscience Is Clear Toward Each Of The Individuals On Your List. If we're not careful we might find ourselves engaging in "subtle retaliation" by "disengaging from the relationship, rather than pressing through to love them."**
  - a. True Forgiveness is about checking yourself because quite often *"the offended becomes the offender"*.
  
3. **Column 3=Choose To Fully Forgive Every Person Who Has Sinned Against You. Please know that when you make the decision to Choose Forgiveness the enemy (and your flesh for that matter)will work with great intensity and fervor to either stop you completely or especially get you to compromise and stop short of True Forgiveness.**
  - a. True Forgiveness is when despite how you feel, even if you don't have a will to do so, your desire to be obedient to God MUST override it ALL!!! Here's a suggested prayer ***"Lord, by Your Grace and in obedience to You, I Choose To Forgive-to clear their record, to press the delete button, to release the offender, to let the offense go. I do forgive!"***