

Overflow

FORGIVENESS.

Sometimes forgiveness is easy.

Sometimes it is a freakin' breeze.

Usually it is not.

Usually it requires some amount of sacrifice, some amount of humility, some amount of struggle. Unfortunately for all of us, forgiveness does not mean magical automatic healing and wholeness. You will not forget every wrongdoing.

Jesus forgave the people who nailed him to the cross and still left Earth with holes in his hands.

And even still, he forgave. He restored. He settled the debt.

He settled *our* debt through intimacy, with compassion.

IN THE BIBLE.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Romans 5:6-11

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to

die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Read "The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant" in Matthew 18:21-35

QUESTIONS.

1. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
2. What does it mean to forgive but not forget? How can you do that?
3. How were you forgiven? Who do you need to forgive?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?