

Thanks for your interest in

Forgiveness Principles

*It is my hope that this information will
help you forgive others and yourself*

About the Author

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Forgiveness Principles

Have you ever wondered about the subject of forgiveness? For example, how many times should you forgive someone who sins against you? Once? Twice? Three times? Are there things that you could never forgive a person for doing? What if they murdered your mother or raped your sister; could you forgive them? What if they lied to you or stole some of your money? For Christians, the subject of forgiveness is extremely important. It is thus critical to investigate what God has to say on the subject. Please turn to the book of Matthew chapter 18 as we look at verses 21 through 35.

Matthew 18:21-35

"[21] Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" [22] Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. [23] "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. [24] "And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. [25] "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. [26] "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.' [27] "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. [28] "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' [29] "So his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' [30] "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. [31] "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. [32] "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. [33] 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?' [34]

"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. [35] "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

This passage is rich in principles on forgiveness. Before we investigate them I want us to briefly look at a definition for forgiveness.

DEFINITION:

The Hebrew word for "forgive" in the Old Testament is nasa' {naw-saw'} or nacah (Ps 4 : 6 [7]) {naw-saw'} a primitive root.

AV - (bare, lift, etc...) up 219, bear 115, take 58, bare 34, carry 30, (take, carry)..away 22, borne 22, armourbearer 18, forgive 16, accept 12, exalt 8, regard 5, obtained 4, respect 3, misc 74; 654

The Greek word for "forgive" in the New Testament is aphiemi {af-ee'-ay-mee} from 575 (away from) and hiemi (to send, an intens. form of eimi, to go); AV - leave 52, forgive 47, suffer 14, let 8, forsake 6, let alone 6,

misc 13; 146

1) to send away

1a) to bid going away or depart

1a1) of a husband divorcing his wife

1b) to send forth, yield up, to expire

1c) to let go, let alone, let be

1c1) to disregard

1c2) to leave, not to discuss now, (a topic)

1c21) of teachers, writers and speakers

1c3) to omit, neglect

1d) to let go, give up a debt, forgive, to remit

1e) to give up, keep no longer

The Greek word for "forgiveness" in the New Testament is *aphesis* {af'-es-is} from 863; TDNT - 1:509,88; AV - remission 9, forgiveness 6, deliverance 1, liberty 1; 17

- 1) release from bondage or imprisonment
- 2) forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty

Forgiveness may thus be defined as, "The sending away of sin. Pardon from sin. The cancellation of sin. The release from and the dismissal of sin's penalty."

Even Webster's dictionary has the idea. It defines forgiveness as, "ceasing to feel resentment against an offender. Giving up the claim to requital for an insult. Granting relief from payment."

When we forgive a person we basically overlook their sin, send it away and no longer hold them responsible for the wrong they have committed.

Now that we see what forgiveness is, let's explore at Matthew 18 and observe eleven important principles related to forgiveness.

1. There is confusion when it comes to forgiveness. v21

"[21] Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Notice that Peter who had walked, talked and lived with Jesus, was himself unclear about forgiveness. His confusion was not regarding whether or not he was to forgive but on how many times he was to forgive.

Isn't it the same today. Christians basically know that forgiveness is to be part of their lives. The question they have is in regard to how much they are to forgive. I've heard people say things like: "I know I am supposed to forgive but what he did goes beyond forgiveness." or "I could forgive a lot of things but I could never forgive that!"

Maybe there is someone in your life that you just can't seem to forgive. Maybe you feel like the offender has committed the unpardonable sin. Maybe they:

- snubbed you or treated you like dirt
- let their dog go to the bathroom in your yard
- gossiped about a friend of yours
- squandered your families money
- committed some immoral act
- lied to you

In Peter's case he was wondering if there is a limit to the number of times to forgive someone. Rabbinical teaching of Peter's day stated that a person was to forgive someone three times; the old "third time is the charm" routine. Peter even offered a higher number, seven. This was much more generous than the teaching of his day. Surely that would be sufficient for anyone. Perhaps he was thinking that if they didn't learn their lesson after seven sins they didn't deserve forgiveness.

Christ's answer to Peter was fairly plain. Peter was not to forgive someone seven times but instead, seventy times seven, 490 times!

That brings us to principle number two:

2. Forgiveness is to be unlimited. v22

[22] Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

In verse 22 when Jesus says that we are to forgive people seven times seventy He is really saying that forgiveness is to be unlimited

Has someone repeatedly sinned against you? Start keeping a count. Let me know when you have forgiven them 490 times. Or better yet, realize that your forgiveness is to be without end.

I also believe that forgiveness involves forgiving QUALITY of sin as well as QUANTITY of sin. In other words, not only should we be willing to forgive people an unlimited number of times, but we should be willing to forgive them no matter what they do. Some people say:

- "I could forgive them if they lied about me but I could never forgive them if they hurt my children."
- "I could forgive them if they got involved with drugs but I could never forgive them for committing adultery."

Is there a sin you wouldn't be willing to forgive? I hope not. From a human standpoint it might seem impossible to forgive certain things but with God's help, all things are possible.

The third principle regarding forgiveness is:

3. There are things that people do that they need forgiveness for, but that they can never make restitution for. vv23,24

This seems obvious but it is an important principle. Sometimes this is where we draw the line. If those who sin against us can make restitution we forgive them but if they can't, we don't. For example, if a person steals something out of your yard and later returns it, you forgive them. But there are times that people will never be able to undo what has been done, like:

- the drunk driver who kills a child
- the robber who kills a store attendant

What do we do in those cases? Do we forgive or not? This is a hard question.

Such was the case in our story in Matthew. Notice verses 23 and 24, [23] *"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. [24] "And when he*

had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents.

Ten thousand talents is a lot of money. One estimate I heard was that it was equivalent to \$10,000,000 dollars in silver content but worth much more in buying power. When I read that a servant owed his king this kind of money I was wondering what kind of servants this king had. If a person had access to ten million dollars I wondered why he would be anyone's servant. The amount is used I believe not to confuse us but to illustrate the fact that there was no way the servant could ever repay the king. He owed an amount that was unpayable.

Should the king consider forgiving him? Yes he should! Think about our salvation and the sin that separates us from God. There is no amount of money we could pay to be forgiven of our sin. The debt we owe is too great. We could give all the money in the world and it still would not pay the debt. Does God forgive us anyway? Yes He does. There is a neat song that goes:

He (Jesus) paid a debt He did not owe,
I owed a debt I could not pay,
I needed someone to wash my sins away.
And now I sing a brand new song,
Amazing grace all day long.
Since Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.

Maybe you are having difficulty forgiving someone because what they did to you can never be rectified. Realize that is exactly the situation you are in with regard to God.

This brings us to the fourth principle:

4. Our natural inclination when people sin against us is to make them pay one way or the other. v25

[25] "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

Notice in verse 25 that the king realized that the servant did not have the means to repay him. His immediate reaction was to get some payment even if it meant selling the servant and his entire family into slavery.

Isn't that your natural reaction when someone sins against you; to make them pay. It is mine and yet it is not what God would have us do. He would have us show mercy just like He has shown us. When we demand justice, God is saying show mercy. Justice is giving people what they deserve. Mercy is not giving them what they deserve. They deserve some punishment but we choose to show them mercy.

When someone has done something against us it is so easy to let our reaction rest entirely in the emotional realm. As Christians we are not to make decisions based on emotions but instead based on what God's word says. Even if our emotions tell us one thing, we must make them subservient to what we know is right, when it comes to forgiving others.

This brings us to the fifth principle.

5. Repentance triggers forgiveness and restoration. vv26,27

Notice what the servant did who owed the king money. Verses 26 and 27 state: *[26] "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.'* *[27] "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.*

When the king saw that the slave wanted to make restitution, he cancelled the debt and let him go. I believe that if the slave had not done what he did, he would have been sold with his family into slavery. It is

interesting that the king forgave his debt. He could have simply said, "OK, I will be patient until you repay me." Instead he cancelled the debt. Perhaps he knew that the servant could never fully repay. Instead of making him stay in financial bondage, he simply forgave the debt.

When a person asks for our forgiveness from what appears to be a sincere heart, we should give it.

Listen to Jesus words in Luke 17:3,4:

"...If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
⁴ If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." (NIV)

Notice that Jesus tells us to forgive someone even if they sin against us seven times a day, as long as they repent. The operative word is "repent." To repent means to turn away from sin. It means not only to be sorry for sin but to desire to change and to not sin again. Is it possible that a person could sin against another person seven times a day? How about this: a husband gets up late and causes his wife to be late for work because he gets in the shower late. She is angry but he asks for forgiveness (#1). He then promises to help out by mailing a package at the Post Office for her and to take her to lunch. Unfortunately he gets tied up at work, doesn't get the package mailed and forgets about lunch. He calls his wife at 1 PM, apologizes and asks for forgiveness (#2, #3). He says he will help out by picking the kids up at school. An emergency comes up and he is forced to call the school to tell his kids to walk home. When he finally arrives home his wife is furious but forgives him(#4). At 7 PM someone calls and asks the wife if they still plan on coming to the surprise party for their neighbor. This is the first she has heard about it. Her husband was supposed to tell her. She forgives him (#5). When they return from the party she asks her husband if he still plans to drive a group of kids to his son's soccer game the next day. He informs her that a business trip has come up that he forgot to tell her about. He repents, she forgives (#6). As he turns to

walk out of the room, he bumps the dining room table knocking over his wife's favorite crystal vase which shatters on the floor. He asks forgiveness, she gives it (#7). Is this a possible scenario? Maybe it happened at your house last week.

There is no doubt that this husband needs some serious help but if he sincerely repented, his wife should forgive him. She may never trust him again but she should forgive him!

If a person sincerely repents he should be forgiven. If his actions do not change then it may be an indication that his repentance was not sincere. Maybe he was only sorry for what happened and really does not desire to change. But if the desire is there, change will eventually come.

Not only does repentance trigger forgiveness, it also triggers restoration. Although the verse does not say that the servant went back to work for the king, I believe it can be insinuated that he did. When he was released, he undoubtedly returned to his job. His relationship with the king was restored.

When folks sin against us and repent, we should be willing to restore them to a place of fellowship. In our humanness we may wonder whether their repentance is sincere but their actions will confirm or deny that soon enough. Because we are human the restoration process may take time. How much will depend on the situation. Although we may not hold the sin against them, it will be awhile before trust is restored.

If they have committed immorality, it would be unwise to thrust them back into ministry but we should not deny them fellowship. If their actions remain consistent there may come a time when it is appropriate to allow them to minister again.

Notice, what 1 John 1:9 states:

⁹ If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)

Our confession triggers God's forgiveness and cleansing which restores our relationship with Him.

The question still arises, "What if people do not repent? Are we still obligated to forgive them? After all, God does not save non-Christians who do not repent. Instead, He judges them."

Yes we are to forgive those who don't repent. Listen to Mark 11:25:

²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." (NIV)

Notice what is said, "If you hold anything against anyone, forgive him..." That is pretty broad. It refers to believers or non-believers. We are to forgive everyone. Notice, too, that nowhere is repentance mentioned. We need to forgive people whether or not they repent. Even though we may forgive them, a relationship cannot be restored until they come to the place of repentance. This is obviously true with non-believers with whom we have no fellowship. Regarding believers who sin against us, even though we no longer hold ill feelings towards them, we will not be able to enjoy any type of fellowship unless they make the choice to repent.

The importance of forgiving those who do not repent is further reinforced by Jesus' example. Remember His request to the Father when He was crucified:

Luke 23:34

³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (NIV)

Do you also remember what Stephen prayed when he was stoned,

Acts 7:59-60

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. (NIV)

In both cases the people were neither Christian nor repentant and yet both Jesus and Stephen forgave them. Can we do any less to those who sin against us? No! And those who sin against us will usually be committing a lesser offense than murder.

In addition, in the Lord's prayer (the disciple's prayer) it says,

Matthew 6:12

¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
(NIV)

Notice that nothing is mentioned here about repentance on the part of others. It simply says we are to forgive.

We must understand, however, that there are consequences for sin. Romans 13:1-4 tells us that the Government is God's minister for punishing those who do evil. If a person practices evil, even if he later repents, he will face punishment by the law. As Christians we are obligated to forgive him in our hearts but he may still receive rightful punishment under the law. This might be called, paying one's debt to society. I think it is totally consistent for a Christian to forgive a person on the one hand and pray that justice be done on the other. When we forgive, any bitterness in us is washed away but we can still pray that a person receives from the courts what is coming to him. We may pray that the judge is merciful but for the good of society, those who sin must

pay the consequences. Unfortunately we live in a society which has leaned in many cases way too far on the side of mercy. Mercy is often appropriate but many criminals show no true signs of repentance and deserve justice.

It is also appropriate on occasion for the church to take action against individuals. Such was the case in 1 Corinthians 5, when the church expelled the unrepentant man who was committing immorality with his Father's wife.

On the one hand we are to forgive those who sin, but on the other there are times to apply church discipline. With believers, the goal should be to apply church discipline with a view to restoration.

No matter who sins against us we need to keep in mind Matthew 5:43-48:

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (NIV)

This brings us to the sixth principle.

6. It is easy to have a double standard when it comes to forgiveness. v28-30

[28] "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' [29] "So his fellow slave fell down and

began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' [30] "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

Notice what the forgiven servant did when he found someone who owed him money. He was not willing to forgive his fellow servant. Instead he choked him even though his fellow servant asked him to have patience and told him that he desired to repay the debt. Notice, too, that the amount owed was much different than what the first slave owed the king. The first slave's debt was unpayable, ten million dollars (ten thousand talents). The second slave's debt was only a hundred denarii. A denarius was equivalent to one day's wages. Although this was a considerable sum, it could be repaid.

The double standard that some folks have is that they want to be forgiven of their debts but they are not willing to forgive others. Let that not be true of us. Our sin was the cause for Jesus' death. He died for us. The debt we owe God is unpayable and yet we are willing to accept His forgiveness. How much more should we be ready to forgive those who sin against us.

In addition, the sins that others have committed could still be committed by us. We could be the next ones seeking forgiveness. You have heard it said regarding sin, "Except for the grace of God there go I." I believe we might better say, "Except for the grace of God there still could go I." Because of our sin nature, any one of us could fall at any time. Let us not have attitudes of self-righteous condemnation of others.

This brings us to the seventh principle.

7. Others, including God, will know if we are unforgiving. v31
[31] "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

Notice the reaction of the other servants who observed the first servant's lack of forgiveness. Listen to verse 31.

The word for "told" means to explain in detail. The other servants told their master everything about the situation.

When we don't forgive people, others will find out. They may see how we treat the person. They may hear us talk about them. But even if we try to hide our lack of forgiveness, God will know, because He sees the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

In addition, our lack of forgiveness may cause others to turn against us. Instead of the person who sinned against us being the center of people's conversation, we may become the center. People may say things like, "Joe just won't forgive Sam for what he did. Sure, Sam did a terrible thing but isn't it sad that Joe won't forgive him. I really think we need to pray for Joe."

There is another word for unforgiveness; that word is SIN. Those who refuse to forgive have committed a sin that needs forgiveness. By failing to forgive others, they sin against God and become an offender, just like the person who sinned against them. Indeed, if you fail to forgive others, your sin will find you out (Numbers 32:23).

The eighth principle is:

8. Our forgiveness of others is to be based on God's forgiveness of us. vv32,33

[32] "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. [33] 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?'

Notice the point the master makes in talking with the servant. His point is simple. The servant should have forgiven his fellow servant just as he had been forgiven. We don't forgive others because we are such great

people. We don't forgive people because we feel sorry for them. We don't forgive people because we think it may please others or make us look good. We forgive others because God has forgiven us.

Listen to Colossians 3:13

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (NIV)

Any time someone sins against you and you don't feel like forgiving them remember that it was your sin and mine that sent Christ to the cross. Remember that God has forgiven your sin at the great expense of His Son. There is nothing that we need to forgive that even compares with what God has forgiven us for. And, God continues to forgive you day after day as you still sin against Him.

This brings us to principle nine:

9. An unforgiving spirit makes God angry and may bring judgment.
v34

[34] "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Notice what the king did to the servant who would not forgive his fellow servant. In his anger, the king put the unforgiving servant into jail to be tortured until he should repay all that he owed. Since he could never repay his debt, he would be in prison for life. What a terrible way to spend your life.

When people are not saved they often follow their sin nature and refuse to forgive others. This lack of forgiveness will be strong evidence against them on judgment day and further indication that they deserve to be eternally separated from God.

For the Christian, on the other hand, forgiveness should be the natural response to having been forgiven by God. Unfortunately, because we still have sin natures, it is easy for Christians to follow old habit patterns and refuse to forgive those who have sinned against them. If we fail to forgive, we will trigger God's anger and He will take disciplinary action against us. The Scripture tells us that those God loves, He disciplines (Hebrews 12:6). We will not be eternally separated from Him like non-believers who die in their sin but we may receive a spiritual spanking in this life. Sometimes the discipline comes as natural consequences; bitterness, broken relationships, etc. Sometimes it is more severe; physical illness, etc. To avoid God's discipline, it is best to forgive others and not harbor bitterness.

When we fail to forgive I believe that we give Satan the opportunity to drive wedges between believers and cause disunity in the church. When one group of believers is willing to forgive someone and another group is not, this causes division.

Often when we are angry at someone we don't want to get things right because we would rather wallow in our anger. It is alright to have righteous anger about sin but we must be sure that our anger does not cause us to commit the sin of unforgiveness. Ephesians 4:26,27 states,

²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. (NIV)

If you are angry at someone, that's OK but be sure you forgive them. Don't give the devil a foothold.

This brings us to principle ten:

10. Lack of forgiveness destroys lives but forgiveness heals. vv30, 34
[30] "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

[34] "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

The first slave's life was ruined by his lack of forgiveness. Unless the king once again showed mercy, the first slave spent the rest of his life in prison.

The second slave's life was also affected by lack of forgiveness. Perhaps after the first slave was put into prison it got better but up until then his life was made miserable by the first servant's lack of forgiveness.

Many people today suffer the effects of lack of forgiveness. Perhaps they harbor bitterness in their heart and thus live in mental torment. Perhaps they refuse to come back to church because someone offended them and thus rob themselves of vital fellowship. Perhaps they hate themselves for something they did in the past. Perhaps they have a fractured family because they shut out a son or daughter who sinned against them. Perhaps they hate their job because they refuse to forgive someone at the office who sinned against them. Lack of forgiveness robs people of the abundant, joyous life that God desires for every believer.

It is so important that we forgive others and allow God to take care of any retribution. Romans 12:19 states:

¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (NIV)

God may choose to judge those who have sinned against us or others through the church or the government. It is our responsibility to trust Him to do what is best.

The final principle is:

11. We are to forgive from the heart - v35

Verse 35 indicates that our forgiveness must not be superficial but must be from the heart. It must be sincere. It must be genuine. Verse 35 states, [35] *"So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."*

If a person says he forgives another but doesn't exhibit true forgiveness in his actions and attitudes, his forgiveness is not from the heart. If a person continues to dredge up another's offense, his forgiveness is not from the heart. If a person gossips about another, his forgiveness is not from the heart. If he shuns the offender, his forgiveness is not from the heart.

If we have truly forgiven someone we will be willing to greet them, talk with them, smile at them, sit next to them, fellowship with them and be kind to them. If there is a person that you cannot do these things to, you probably have not forgiven them. You need to go to them, confess your lack of forgiveness and to make things right.

CONCLUSION:

Let's review the principles:

1. There is confusion when it comes to forgiveness - v21
2. Forgiveness is to be unlimited - v22
3. There are things that people do that they need forgiveness for but that they can never make restitution for - v23,24
4. Our natural inclination when people sin against us is to make them pay one way or the other - v25
5. Repentance triggers forgiveness and restoration - v26,27
6. It is easy to have a double standard when it comes to forgiveness - vv28-30
7. Others including God will know if we are unforgiving - v31
8. Our forgiveness of others is to be based on God's forgiveness of us - v33

9. An unforgiving spirit makes God angry and may bring judgment - v34
10. Lack of forgiveness destroys lives but forgiveness heals - v30, 34
11. We are to forgive from the heart: v35

We must learn to forgive. Is there someone who has wronged you who has asked for forgiveness? Forgive them. Work at restoring the relationship. If there is someone who has not repented, forgive them, too.

Is there someone who has wronged you and not come to you. Perhaps they don't even know that they have sinned against you. Go tell them and work things out. The whole first part of Matthew 18 addresses that issue. If you have difficulty forgiving others perhaps it is because you don't know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. The Bible teaches that:

1. All of us have sinned (We have all done things that go against God) - Romans 3:23
2. The wage of our sin is death (We will be eternally separated from God when we die, if we die without God's forgiveness) - Romans 6:23
3. We will all die physically and be judged for our sin - Hebrews 9:27
4. The only way to come to God and receive forgiveness is through Christ's death for us on the cross - John 3:16

If you desire to become a Christian today by asking Christ into your life, you can do that right now by praying the following prayer.

"Lord, I need You. I realize that I am a sinner and deserve to be eternally separated from You. Thank You for dying for me on the cross. I ask You to forgive my sin, and to come into my life to be my Lord (the one who controls my life) and Savior (the one who saves me from sin). I give myself to You. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. I love You. AMEN"