

SOMETIMES FORGIVENESS DOESN'T COME EASY

1. What happens when you have to forgive your spouse for the same things over and over again, and it gets harder instead of easier as time goes on.
2. Layers of offenses have accumulated, and therefore layers of forgiveness are needed. We have to realize that in our lives – especially in our marriages – forgiveness is ongoing; sometimes daily. We always need the willingness to forgive ready in our heart. And only a heart humbled by forgiveness of God has the ability to completely forgive time and again.

3. You have to forgive your spouse the way Jesus has forgiven you.

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. (That is 490 times a day)

4. Jesus forgave you completely, not looking back. No remembering. It means not keeping a list of the ways you have been wronged. It means refusing to carry bitterness and resentment about anything. It means living each day free of bad memories and looking to the future of hope.
5. Real forgiveness means completely letting go of an offense and refusing to hold it against the offender. This kind of forgiveness is impossible without the Lord. We need God helping us to forgive every day.
6. Forgiving does not mean you are giving the offender a free pass to commit the offense again and again. It does not mean you are inviting abuse or giving that person a license to walk all over you or continue to hurt you.

7. Forgiveness does not make the other person right; it makes your free.

SEVEN THINGS THAT ARE TRUE ABOUT FORGIVING

1. Forgiving Brings blessings to you:

1Pe 3:8 Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:

1Pe 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

2. Forgiving others paves the way for you to be forgiven:

Luk 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

3. Forgiving allows you to forget and move forward:

Phi 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Phi 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

4. Forgiving frees you to worship God with your whole heart:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Mat 23:24 *Ye* blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

5. **Forgiving proves that you are kind and tenderhearted:**

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

6. **Forgiving make you Christlike:**

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

7. **Forgiving is the way you pursue peace and keep from becoming bitter:**

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Heb 12:15 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;