

“CLOSER TO GOD SERIES”

GET CLOSER
TO GOD



I. DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS

The Greek word *aphiemi* is the word we have translated as *forgive* in our passage. *Aphiemi* means to hurl, to release, to let go, to cancel, to remit, to pardon. It is to release someone from a legal or moral obligation.

So forgiveness is...releasing...letting it go.

II. NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

Why do we need forgiveness?

Because our relationship with God has been broken.

Luke 11:4

“Forgive us our sins.”

III. SOURCE OF FORGIVENESS

The source of our forgiveness is God. God is an offended party in every case of sin. And God is the ultimate source of all forgiveness.

IV. PURPOSE OF FORGIVENESS

So what's the purpose of forgiveness?

It is to restore the broken relationship.

Psalm 86:5

**For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to
forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness
to all who call upon Thee.**

Neh. 9.17

**You are a forgiving God, gracious and
compassionate, slow to anger and
abounding in love.**

“Very often people are afraid to forgive because they assume that if they forgive, injustice will triumph.”

Brian Zahnd



V. THE REQUIREMENT OF FORGIVENESS

**“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors.”**

Matthew 6:12

**“For if you forgive others for their
transgressions, you heavenly Father will also
forgive you. But if you do not forgive others,
then your Father will not forgive your
transgressions.”**

Matthew 6:14-15

**GOD KNOWS FORGIVENESS
IS GOING TO BE AN ISSUE IN
YOUR LIFE**

**GOD REQUIRES THOSE
SEEKING FORGIVENESS TO
BE FORGIVING**

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.”

Mark 11:25

VI. PROCESS OF FORGIVENESS

A. RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

B. GIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS

“The person who gains the most from forgiveness is the person who does the forgiving.”

R. T. Kendall

Forgiveness begins in the heart.

**You must place no limits on
forgiveness.**

“keeps no record of wrongs.”

1 Cor. 13.5

**“Keeping count has nothing to do
with true forgiveness.”**

John MacArthur