

***“REVIVAL: Fanning Into Flame
the Gift of God That Is In You!”***

***“Forgiving As You Have Been
Forgiven!”***

**Matthew 6:9-15, 18:21-35;
Ephesians 4:29-32**



Introduction: “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive YOU!” - Matthew 6:14

Questions: “Do you have to forgive others BEFORE God forgives you?” ... “Can you lose your salvation if you DON’T forgive??”

Forgiveness releases God’s children to love Him and to love others!

Refusing to forgive others gets in the way of REVIVAL because it leaves you consumed with bitterness, anger and the desire for revenge.

I. God’s definition of forgiveness ...

Both Jesus and the first Christian martyr, Stephen, understood that GOD is the Judge of all people and the people who were sinning against them were bound in spiritual darkness.

As they asked God to forgive others their focus was on spiritual things and nothing could take away their hope or joy in the Lord.

To “forgive” often means to “pardon” someone or to “cancel” a debt owed.

A second definition of “forgive” = “to let go of” or “release.”

II. GOD’s role in forgiveness ...

SIN is breaking God’s Law and it brings legal consequences. Sin makes you GUILTY in GOD’s court!

Ezekiel 18:21-23:

Because we are “legally” guilty, only the Judge, only GOD can cancel our debt or pardon us ... but only if the debt is PAID!!!

Personal revival happens when a person hears the Gospel, that Jesus paid our debt on the cross, confesses their sin, and by faith is justified, declared righteous in God’s sight!!

I John 1:9:

GOD’s role in forgiveness it to take the initiative, providing the offering to satisfy His justice, and then offering forgiveness through the Gospel and moving those whom He chooses to receive it!!

III. OUR role in forgiveness ...

Matthew 6:14-15; 18:35 ...

Ephesians 4:29-32: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave YOU!” (vs. 32).

Forgiving others by releasing all of your bitterness and anger, by letting go of the desire for revenge, for payback, is good for YOU !!

A person should never be assured of GOD’s forgiveness unless there is evidence of the work of God’s Spirit and a confession of faith in Jesus.

Believers are called to confront sin and to point people to Christ for HIS forgiveness!!

Matthew 18:15-17:

Luke 17:3-4:

We cannot pardon sin, but we can and should be God’s instruments to call people to repent and to receive God’s forgiveness in Christ.

Colossian 3:12-14:

“In Christ,” because the Holy Spirit is working in YOU, you must forgive those who repent and who ask for forgiveness.

Heartfelt forgiveness clears the air and cleans the slate, offering a new beginning for some and true REVIVAL for believers!!