FORGIVENESS

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.



CHOOSING TRUTH OVER FEAR

In a world full of pain, Jesus shows us how to fight through with love. Through Christ, forgiveness offers an opportunity to express a feeling that transcends our human capacity to comprehend.

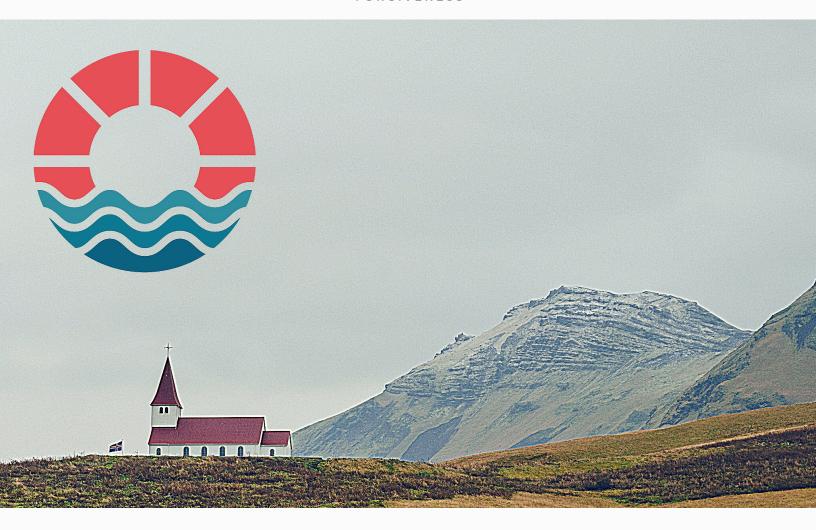
However, His amazing love never wavered on the cross and we never to worry about it wavering in our lives, today.

Paul shared a truth with Timothy that the father had not given them a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (1 Timothy 1:7). Forgiveness demonstrates the perfect love of God, which casts out all fear (1 John 4:18).

Therefore, our hope should rest on the love of Christ. Our actions should demonstrate such love through our response to others' actions.

When fear overwhelms us, the bible lights the path to Christ. No obstacle is too big for God to intervene, and no individual with breath in their lungs is too far gone for the love of Christ to break the walls of unbelief in their lives.

The words of Joshua still ring true. Today, we have a choice to make. Either choose the Lord, and His forgiveness, or choose fear and the destruction that permeates from its grip.



THE TRUTH ABOUT FORGIVENESS

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Sometimes, the path to forgiveness feels like a mountain hanging around our necks. Without intentional effort, and a lot of prayer, we often live many years with pent up bitterness towards people who will never know the effect their actions had on us. Who wins in those situations? No one wins.

The struggle comes in forgiving them even if they do not deserve it. In truth, none of us deserve forgiveness for our sins yet Jesus still prayed to the Father on the cross, and continues to pray at His right hand even now. How can we take the example of Christ as a guide for our lives? What will give us victory over the pain?

In surveying the scriptures, we find ample evidence to reinforce the actions of Christ.

Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Mark 11:25 - "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Matthew 6:15 – "But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 18:21-22 - "Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

Luke 6:37 - "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;"

Forgiveness isn't fair. Forgiveness isn't easy. Forgiveness doesn't always make sense. Jesus still left us the example of considering the hearts of others in his most painful experience. In doing so, we have receive the answer to our pain. Forgive yourself, and forgive others.



Effective faith is biblical not cultural.

- JIMMY BROCKWAY

Please read these scriptures, and many more, to help guide you through the moments of uncertainty and pain. God made a way for us to both experience and offer forgiveness. Use this team to focus your hearts on Him as the author and perfector of our faith.