

Forgive and Live!

How wonderful to read about our LORD JESUS' love for us. When we take a pause from our busyness and spend some special moments thinking about our LORD and what His love is all about, we are brought to the reality of that living truth how He obliterated our sins for good. By His death He has cleansed our sins and made our hearts new. His death became an offering for a new life. His death brought the very forgiveness for lost souls. How truly humbling that the LORD JESUS took our sins to the very cross of His death. On that cross He nailed Satan's claim on our sins for good and brought freedom to all.

How do we define forgiveness or better yet how much do we understand about it? I can't help but think of the existence or maybe the non-existence of the word in our lives. Some of us, without any doubt, still hold a grudge or that willful denial to forgive others and especially ourselves.

While we are thinking of the LORD's encompassing, sacrificial love, it is an ideal time to examine ourselves if we are harboring any debris of not letting go of pain caused by ourselves and by others.

Our LORD suffered for our sake. At His last breath, the KING of all Kings and LORD of all Lords, still thought of us and called on to GOD the Father to forgive us for we knew not what we were doing. To this day such a statement baffles both believers and non-believers. But the LORD JESUS said the very truth from His heart. His love for all people, regardless of status, belief or culture, holds true to this day.

Forgiving, though may seem so far-fetched for some of us, will not cause our downfall or shame. The truth, it spells courage and profound humility. It is liberation from the enemy's fold.

It is not easy to let go, not easy to forgive particularly when trust has been trampled on. But we need to ask ourselves: Did not our LORD teach us to go another mile? ([Matthew 5:41](#)) Did He not teach us to offer the other cheek? ([Luke 6:29](#)) Did not our LORD say to forgive seventy times seven? ([Matthew 18:21-35](#)). Yes, we are constantly reminded by the LORD's HOLY SPIRIT to be forgiving at all cost. But where are we in our following Him? Where are we in our commitment to His unconditional love?

The next time the gnawing pain comes in making us focus on the embarrassment and hurt brought to us by others, let us not hesitate a moment to bring to mind how the LORD, nailed on the cross for our sake, had forgiven all of our sins.

Let's take a further look not only on His beaten body, nor His hands and feet nailed securely on the wooden cross, but on His bloody face and let's sink deeper into His eyes. Then let us ask ourselves, do we have the right to cling on to such unforgiving attitude. The Creator of this world, whose life hung on a wooden cross, experienced all of our imperfections and still saved us from eternal doom. His was forgiveness without untainted by any hesitation. The heavy cross He carried all the way to Golgotha. Can we not then carry our own cross, so minimal in scope compared to what He went through? Where are we indeed in our commitment to the love He shared, given and died for? Can we not forgive as He has forgiven?

Let us pray for those who are hurting. Let us pray for those whom we have hurt and those who have hurt us. Let us pray for one another that we all will see the light that the LORD JESUS brought into this world. Let us remember the Living WORD in Mt. Calvary where the Gentlest Lamb got slain. Let us not forget His holy blood flowing on Golgotha's grounds - every drop of it for our sake. Forgive and live!