

# The Ten Question Forgiveness Challenge

by Mark Wash

Here are 10 verses about forgiveness that can do what seems impossible. There is a question below each verse that you can pray about or write about. Take your time, listen to Jesus, and ask Him to show you how to forgive and let go of the past.

**1. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**  
**1 John 1:8-9**

You probably didn't think I was going to start with a verse about our own sin, did you? That's right: before we can ever hope to forgive others, we have to admit that we need forgiveness and face it. It's not fun to think about, but God sees all sin as the same, and you and I need forgiveness just as much as anyone else.

**Q1:** Do you need to ask for forgiveness for something today? I suggest that you first ask God for forgiveness and then ask anyone else you need to forgive. Let's forgive from a new place of being forgiven!

**2. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."** Ephesians 4:31-32

Paul, who wrote Ephesians and was writing to the church in Ephesus, tells us to "put away" anything that would keep us from forgiving others. He talks about putting off our old self, the one that only follows our desires, a few verses earlier in chapter 4. The old self clings to past pain and resentment, while the new self, discovered in Jesus, surrenders our hearts to Him for healing and a disposition towards forgiveness.

**Q2:** What are some things that are different about your old and new self?

**3. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."**  
**Colossians 3:12-13**

We just talked about what we should "put off." In this verse, we learn what we should "put on" as our new selves. The only way to really forgive someone is to put on these traits of Christ.

**Q3:** How can you start to put on and practice the traits of Jesus?

**4. "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."** Luke 17:3-4

Jesus is asking a lot of us here when He talks to His disciples (and you and me). He is teaching us that

we need to keep our forgiveness open. We are supposed to forgive everyone who hurts us, especially when our brother or sister comes to us and says they are sorry. What do you think the disciples said right away in verse 5? "Increase our faith." that is to say, 'Make our faith stronger!' They knew that this was an impossible task without Jesus changing them.

**Q4:** Do you ever hold back on forgiving someone? Is it harder to forgive a certain person?

**5. "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." Luke 7:47**

Jesus is so kind! Jesus is talking to a Pharisee who was upset that a "sinful" woman was washing his feet as a service. What can we learn from this? When we understand how deeply we are forgiven, forgiving is a better and more freeing choice than judging.

**Q5:** Do you live like Jesus has forgiven you completely? Does this change how you forgive?

**6. "But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ." 2 Corinthians 2:5–8, 10**

You say you want people to know Jesus. Do you really mean it? If so, forgiving them is the best way to show them that you forgive them because God forgives you and they aren't as far away from Him as they think. He is actually ready to welcome them home as soon as possible. See the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15.

**Q6:** How can you show that God forgives by how you forgive?

**7. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25**

Mark is saying that prayer should be a big part of our daily lives. Did you hear that? Every time we pray, we should practice taking our pain to Jesus and forgiving those who have hurt us. We have freely received the forgiveness that is offered to us when we do.

**Q7:** How can you make forgiveness a part of your daily prayers?

**8. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18**

This is the kind of forgiveness that God gives. As you can see, God never forgives only part of the time. His forgiveness is all-encompassing, making something that is completely blood-stained free of blemishes. This means that we must also fully and fairly forgive.

**Q8:** Is there someone you have only partially forgiven who you need to fully forgive today?

**9. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots." Luke 23:34**

Before He died, one of the last things Jesus did on earth was to ask for forgiveness. He knows that we can't be completely free unless we forgive.

**Q9:** Have you fully accepted Jesus' forgiveness for your sins that he paid for on the cross? If not, He is ready to show you His forgiveness today, friend!

**10. "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43:25**

God doesn't just forgive us; He also chooses to "remember our sins no more." He acts like our past sins don't matter. What a kind act of love! You might think you'll never be able to forget the pain of the past, but with Jesus' help, you can love people as if they never hurt you. We can let go of those hurts and love without limits through Jesus.

**Q10:** Will you today thank the Lord for the biblical forgiveness that we all need right now?

Forgiveness is one of the hardest things to do in the world, which is why Jesus had to die one of the hardest deaths to overcome it. He did it for us, though, and now we get to receive a forgiveness that is far more than we could ever ask for or imagine.