

THE FOUNDATION OF FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:12, 14-15

Matthew 18:21-22

THE PRISON OF UNFORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:21-35

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

THE MASTER-KEY OF FORGIVENESS

- Some **blockages** to forgiveness
- Some **misunderstandings** about what forgiveness is:

1. Not forgetting
2. Living with consequences of others' sins
3. Not letting offenders off the hook
4. Not a feeling, but an act of your will
5. Must touch the heart for healing to come

A Prayer of Forgiveness

Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness which Jesus purchased for me at the cross. I fully embrace it by faith and choose to release myself into the freedom of Your forgiveness.

I confess holding myself in judgement over my past sins and mistakes, whenever You have declared me completely forgiven. Please release me from all false guilt and shame, and all the condemnation of the devil.

Father, I am sorry for blaming You for anything bad that has happened in my life; for the times I thought You had let me down. I don't understand the difficult things that have happened in my life and the lives of those I love, and perhaps I never will, but I choose to trust You, and believe that You love me more than I could ever imagine. I declare that You would never, ever want to harm me. Please forgive me for any resentment or bitterness towards You and set me free from the consequences of this attitude towards You.

Father, as You have forgiven me in Christ, by an act of my will, I freely choose to forgive all who have ever harmed or wronged me. Especially I forgive *(name them),* for *(what they did or failed to do),* which made me feel *(express your emotions without reservation to God).* I release to You any sense of entitlement to revenge and I let go of all my bitterness and resentment. I ask You to heal my damaged emotions and set me free from any way the enemy has kept me in bondage through unforgiveness. Also, I ask You to bless these people whom I have forgiven.

In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen.