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**Joy of Forgiveness**

**By Andrei Yashurin**

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There is a tremendous joy in being forgiven - in being guilt-free, shame-free and have no self-condemnation. In order to

experience the joy of the Lord in its fullness, we need to practice living in consciousness of divine forgiveness.

"The kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

I would encourage you to treat guilt as your worst enemy. It won't help you to become a better person, no matter what some people say about it. Even if it may motivate you to improve yourself, it will ruin your self-esteem in a process. God doesn't need guilt to correct you, He has a better way. Every message that is filled with guilt, of makes you feel guilty, is not inspired by God, and you don't need to listen to it. Guilt paralyzes, and God does not want to see you paralyzed. He is saying to you:

"Rejoice, for your sins are forgiven!"

"Rise up and walk in the newness of life!"

When a prodigal son came back to himself and returned to his father, filled with guilt and shame, the father (who is the symbol of God) didn't want to listen to his apologies. He rejoiced over his child's return and invited all people in his household to share this joy. He wanted the son to be confident that he is loved and accepted, as if he never left the home!

"Bring the fatted cow here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry, for this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry" (Luke 15:24).

"It was right that we should make merry and be glad" (Luke 15:32).

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The lesson of this parable is that God is more willing to forgive us than we are willing to accept His forgiveness.

Recently I've seen a discussion about "an unforgivable sin", the one that Jesus mentioned in Matthew 12:31–32. Different people expressed different opinions of what it can be, not agreeing with each other. But I think those who really understand the nature of God and our relationships with Him, will easily find the correct answer.

What cannot be forgiven is our refusal to accept forgiveness, our rigid attitude that says it is too easy or it cannot be for us, because our sins are too heavy and we need to be punished for them. This is not true. God has no interest in judging our sins, but we can judge ourselves, either through

self-condemnation, or through attracting to our lives negative and harsh experiences. The choice is given to us.

When we know God, we know that there is nothing easier for Him than to forgive sins.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives ALL your iniquities;  
Who heals ALL your diseases"  
Psalm 103:2,3

The fact that we at times need forgiveness does not make us unworthy sinners. When a child stumbles and falls while learning to walk, he continues to be a child of his parents. Even when we fail, we continue to be children of God.

Although we make mistakes, we continue to be guided and supported by His love.

My joy comes from being forgiven and guilt free. I am exceedingly glad, realizing that there is no condemnation for me when I abide in Christ consciousness. As I embrace forgiveness, I set myself free from every conscious or subconscious desire to punish myself. Being in Christ, I clear my mind from negative self-image which is based on my past failures. I declare that now I am a new creation, and I leave my past behind.

Joy is my inheritance, and I experience it every day as I continue to live in God's kingdom.

Andrei Yashurin is a non-denominational minister, author, translator and an Internet publisher from Russia. His ministry in 2 languages reaches more than 3,000 people every month. He can be contacted at: [yashurin.geo@yahoo.com](mailto:yashurin.geo@yahoo.com) <http://www.your-time-now.com>

**Discover the Power of Forgiveness**

**By Leonard J. Roos**

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What do you do when somebody hurts you? Do you want to hurt him back or do you hold it against that person for the rest of your life? If you answer yes to these questions, know that you are like most people. To forgive is something that people generally have difficulty with.

Why don't people forgive readily? Here's why, because it is easier to hate than to forgive. Some people think to forgive is a sign of weakness, but let me tell you, it is not. To forgive takes courage and extra effort.

What is forgiveness? It is a gift from a generous heart. Forgiveness is not a reward. It is not something that you give to someone based on his good behavior. It is something that you give to a person irrespective of whether he has deserved it or not. Forgiveness is also not based on whether the person has asked for forgiveness.

Also know this. Forgiveness is not an event, which starts and concludes when you say the words, "I forgive you". Forgiveness is an act and a process, which often takes time. The deeper your hurt the longer it usually takes to completely forgive. It is an act because it is not just the words you say but it is your actions which will show if you've really forgiven.

A fine example of someone who embodies true forgiveness is former South African president Nelson Mandela. Mandela was imprisoned by the former all-white South African government for 27 years. Upon his release Mandela surprised the whole world when he showed no bitterness towards his jailers. That is truly remarkable.

Why is it necessary to forgive? Forgiveness releases you from the burden of bitterness and hate. It takes enormous energy to hate and to keep that hate in place. Forgiveness brings freedom whereas revenge is neither sweet nor gratifying, its just a hollow feeling.

Hate puts unnecessary stress on your body. It is a well-known fact, proven by numerous studies, that bitterness and hate can actually make you sick. A great number of people in the world don't really belong in a hospital, because the root of their

problem is not physical but is mental. The moment they forgive

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and let go of their hate they will start to get well.

There is another reason why you need to forgive. If you don't forgive you actually prevent blessings from flowing to you. The Bible says that before you pray for anything first forgive those who wronged you, and then your Father in heaven will forgive you your wrongs. So there you can see that blessings are closely connected to your forgiving others.

I have personal experience of this. I used to be very cynical about life and didn't forgive easily. At the time I also struggled in every area of my life. Things just didn't seem to work out for me. It is as if everything that could go wrong, always went wrong. That was until somebody told me to take a look at my attitude. And when I forgave those who wronged me and changed my attitude, everything else changed. It didn't happen overnight. It took a while, but I could see and feel the difference.

Now you may ask how do you know when you've really forgiven someone? Here's the key. If after you've "forgiven" that person you still experience a negative sting whenever you think of him or her, it means you still have work to do. If however you don't have negative feelings towards that person it means you are free.

Are things not working out in your life, despite you doing all the "right" things? Is it possible that you have unforgiveness in your heart? It is certainly something to think about!

Leonard J. Roos is the author of How to unlock the Awesome Power of the Universe! All of Leonard's writings are based upon his own experiences. Visit <http://www.successnow.info/> now for more revealing insights and receive a powerful new E-Book FREE! Mail to: [info@successnow.info](mailto:info@successnow.info)



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