

FORGIVE AND FORGET

All of us have a specific purpose and plan to fulfill in Christ. God has not planned any of His children to fail. In fact, one of the definitions for the word “blessed” means *the ability to succeed*. God has blessed us in Christ and has planned for us to succeed and finish our race.

The writer of Hebrews tells us to run our race, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, laying aside every hindrance and sin that so easily entangles us and causes us to stumble. (Hebrews 12:1,2)

Everyone has his or her race to run, but all of us have obstacles that get in our way. One of the most common obstacles we all face in running our race is unforgiveness. Unforgiveness hinders our faith. It hinders us from receiving from God. We must forgive others freely and quickly. The Word of God says in Galatians 5:6 that faith works by love. Each step out of love is a step out of faith.

Peter thought forgiving someone seven times in a day was great. But Jesus said, “seventy times seven” in a day. You will always have the opportunity to forgive others. As long as you are here on the earth, people will disappoint you. So, make a decision that you will freely forgive and do it quickly without delay.

As long as you hold something against someone, it will do more damage to you than to them. It will keep you bound to them. The memories or those feelings stay alive in you and keep you hurting. So, just forgive and forget it. It will release you from the person and the situation. It says in Ephesians 4:32, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”.

Not only do you have to forgive others in order to stay on track in your race, but you have to forgive yourself. Some people find it easier to forgive others, but they hold things from their past against themselves. They have a mental check list and keep a running account of all their mistakes and imperfections. They say things like, “I will never forgive myself for that”.

If anyone had to deal with forgiving himself and forgetting, it is the Apostle Paul. He says in Philippians 3:12-14, “...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...” He had to forgive and forget about all the persecution he brought to the Church.

He had to forgive and forget about how he had formerly dragged men, women and children out of their homes and had them thrown into prison. How he watched and held the coats of them that stoned Stephen to death. He brought special letters with him to seize and arrest Christians. Paul knew that dwelling on the past would hinder him from his race. He had to let it go. He had to forgive himself, and then forget it.

You may need to do this as well. Remember God has forgiven you and does not remember your past sins, so why should you? He says in Hebrews 8:12, “Your sins I will remember no more”.

Psalm 103:12, “as far as the east is from the west, so has He removed our sin”.

Isaiah 43:25, “He hath blotted out our transgressions for His own sake”.

Colossians 2:13, “Having forgiven you all trespasses”.

God supernaturally forgets your sin. There is no point in reminding Him of it either because He does not remember it. You have been bought with a price. The precious blood of Jesus. You are not your own. You have no right to hold on to your past mistakes. Let it go.

Pray this aloud today:

“I thank You, Heavenly Father, that Jesus paid the price for all of my sins. Even as you have forgiven me in Christ, so now I forgive myself. I refuse to hold anything against myself. I will not be self-criticizing either. I chose also to forgive anyone who has hurt me. I love them and forgive them with the love of Christ that is within me. I release them and myself now, in Jesus’ Name”.