

There is Hope Radio

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The Power of Forgiveness-PreacherRichD

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The following broadcast is sponsored by Standing in the Gap. Our focus is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. Check us out on the web at standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. Welcome to There is Hope.

Any advice or counsel given is provided for informational purposes only. Your host for There is Hope, Richard Dover. Welcome to the show.

Today I'm going to do a teaching on the power of forgiveness, then share my heart with you, and close with prayer for you. On today's broadcast, we're going to take a few minutes to talk about the power of forgiveness. Yes, there is power for giving someone who has hurt you, no matter how they have hurt you, how much they have hurt you, or how long they have hurt you.

And I'm also sure there are some listening that the issue is not forgiving someone else, but it's forgiving yourself. Everything I'm going to share applies to you also. Listen, if you hate yourself, there is hope for you.

If there's power in forgiving, there is bondage in not forgiving. Before you tune me out, let me first address some misconceptions about forgiveness. I will say, actually, I call them lies about forgiveness.

I want to address these lies, or you may turn me off when I talk about forgiveness. One of the big lies, forgive and forget. How many times have you heard this? If you really forgive someone, you will forget how they have hurt you.

There's only one entity that can forget, and that is God. Praise God when we repent of our sins. He cast them as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more.

Comes from Psalm 103, 12. We are not God, we have a memory. Those who do not have a memory either have a form of dementia, brain injury, or a mental illness.

This would be abnormal to not remember harm done to you. The power of forgiveness that comes from the grace of God is that you can remember the evil act, but no longer has power over you, and no longer controls you. Let me say that again.

The power of forgiveness that comes from the grace of God is that you can remember the evil act, but no longer has power over you, and no longer controls you. Now that in itself should give you some hope. So, forgive and forget is a lie.

The second lie is, when you forgive someone, you must let them off the hook. That is not found anywhere in scripture. Think about it.

Our loving God may cast our sin as far as the east is from the west, but that does not mean there are no consequences for our sin. Praise God, He is merciful and many times there are

minor consequences, but other times there are tough consequences. So, it is a lie that in order to forgive someone, you must let them off the hook.

But you can choose to not hold them accountable. The Holy Spirit will direct you with the right response. So the first lie is to forgive and forget.

The second lie is to forgive and let off the hook. The third lie is to forgive someone, the relationship must be restored. Listen, forgiveness is not restoration.

These are two different things. What do I mean? When you forgive someone, it is not based upon if they repent of their evil actions. It is based upon you wanting to be set free from the bondage of unforgiveness.

There are times even if someone repents of the wrong they have done, it may not be wise to be restored to them, but you can still forgive them. So the first lie is to forgive and forget. The second lie is that you must forgive and let off the hook.

The third lie is there must be restoration in order for there to be forgiveness. The fourth lie is forgiveness is based upon feelings. Now I want you to listen to me on this.

If we wait until we feel like forgiving, we will most likely never forgive. Do you not believe that? Look at your own life. How many people have you not forgiven because you do not feel like it? When do you think you will feel like forgiving them? Never.

Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. As you make a commitment to forgive, God Almighty will give you the grace, the power to forgive. The fourth lie is a tricky one and I want you to listen to me because this may trigger you.

Remember, there is power in forgiving. The fourth lie is I can never forgive them for what they have done to me. Guess what? That really is not a lie.

It is absolutely true. If forgiveness is based upon your strength, or your will, or your power, or your feelings, it most likely would be impossible for you to give. But the power of forgiveness is not dependent upon your ability.

Praise God. The power of forgiveness is by the grace of God. His supernatural power to give you the desire to forgive and His supernatural power to give you the ability to forgive.

That is why this message is titled, The Power of Forgiveness. How can I forgive, you ask? We are getting there. Before we talk about how to forgive, let's take a moment to talk about the bondage.

Yes, the bondage of unforgiveness. We like to call it the dis-ease of unforgiveness. Unforgiveness affects our physical health.

Our loving Creator did not make our bodies to carry unforgiveness. Thus, unforgiveness affects our health and can open up our bodies to disease. And thus, unforgiveness is dis-ease.

Unforgiveness affects our mental well-being. I'm sure anyone who has unforgiveness understands this. Unforgiveness also affects our relationship with others.

Especially if they remind us of the person who has harmed us, or we look in the mirror and see the person we cannot forgive. The most serious consequence of unforgiveness is it separates us from a healthy relationship with our loving Heavenly Father. In fact, Matthew 6.15 says, But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

That should make you very concerned right now. I don't know about you, but I want and need His forgiveness in my life 24-7. That's why I choose to walk in forgiveness by His grace.

We are hoping that you also will choose to walk in forgiveness by His grace. Well, it's time to be totally honest with you. If you are living a life of unforgiveness towards others or yourself, you are outside the will of God, you are living in bondage, and you will continue to experience consequences.

But there is hope. You can walk in the power of forgiveness. How you are asking? Well, we are finally getting there.

The following are some actions you can take to get you to a place to be able to forgive by God's grace. A. Acknowledge you have the dis-ease of unforgiveness. Be totally honest with yourself how bad the dis-ease is, and for some of you it may be like a cancer in your life.

Be willing to acknowledge how destructive it is in your life. Acknowledge how much it has you bound up. B. Ask Father God to reveal to you how your unforgiveness breaks His heart.

Ask Him to let you feel the pain, His pain. Ask for His forgiveness. Thank Jesus that He died on the cross and rose from the grave so you can be forgiven and so you can forgive others.

Again, the power of forgiveness. C. Cry out to Father God asking Him to give you the supernatural power to want to forgive. Confess the hardness of your heart and that you need Him to soften it.

D. Confess to God you are absolutely helpless in being able to forgive someone or yourself on your own strength. Ask by faith the Holy Spirit to give you the supernatural power to forgive someone or yourself. Ask Him to impart forgiveness into you.

E. Speak by faith forgiveness towards the person. Do this between you and God and be very specific. F. Rejoice.

Praise God for the power of forgiveness. G. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what is the next step after forgiveness in your own personal situation. I'm going to end this broadcast by sharing a very personal story of walking in forgiveness.

I have been an atheist for several years and ultimately came to knowing Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior and within I would say a year of being a Christian, probably less than a year, probably six months of being a Christian I was under suspicion that my wife at the time was cheating on me and I knew there was a party at the gentleman's house that I believe she was cheating with. I was working at a grocery store, graveyard shift, and I took off to see if

her car was there. I saw her car was at his house about, I don't know, about 1130 at night but there's some other cars there.

I went back to work, couldn't take it, drove back over to his house. Her car was the only car that was there. This is about one o'clock in the morning.

All of a sudden I felt anger in me and I was not a person who was a violent person, never been a violent person, fighting type person, but I started to drive to my house to get my pistol and I don't know what I was going to do, who was going to be harmed, but I was going to confront the situation and then as clear as can be, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, Christians don't kill people, they forgive people. And I don't know if I really was going to kill anybody because, again, that wasn't my nature, but if you have a gun in your hand, you know, that's why they call them crimes of passion. And so it's mainly when the Holy Spirit said, Christians don't kill, they forgive, I drove over to that house, knocked on the door, the gentleman opened the door, he just had a pair of underwear on, and I looked right at him and I said, I was going to do something different, but God has told me I'm to forgive, so I forgive you.

He turned around and said, I love your wife. Believe me, I did not want to forgive at that time, but once again, the Holy Spirit said you forgive, so I said to him, I still forgive you. I walked into the bedroom and she was laying naked on the bed, I knelt down at the bed, and I said, now listen, all this that I'm doing is by the power of God, it is not my strength whatsoever, it was the power of God working in my life.

Why? Because I wanted to be an obedient Christian. And so I knelt down at the bed, I said, I will forgive you if you go home. I went back to work, I had total peace, I cannot believe I had total peace, went right back to work, did my job, came home in the morning, she was home, and I wish I could say the story ended well, it did not end well, because ultimately she was unfaithful many times, the ultimate divorce came from that.

But I will tell you, I learned the lesson of forgiveness, and from that day, that is about 1980, from 1980 to now, there are very few times that I've had a hard time forgiving. I mean, I'm talking about people who have done anything and everything to me, and I've been able to forgive by the grace of God. So when I teach in the power of forgiveness, I believe there's power of forgiveness.

I believe the Holy Spirit can give you the grace to forgive. So Lord, I pray right now for all of the listeners, somebody is struggling with forgiveness, they just cannot do it, they say, there's no way I can forgive. Yes, they can, by the power of Christ.

I pray, Father God, you instill in them the faith, the grace, the power to be able to forgive, to move beyond the past, and have new life, to have victory over the past, and not be succumbed by unforgiveness, but to walk in forgiveness, and I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. Before we end today's broadcast, I want to share an exciting opportunity that has opened up for our ministry, Creating Futures.

As I shared earlier, Creating Futures is all about trying to bring positive change in people's lives, and we believe through the power of the gospel, we can do that. We have the opportunity to get the gospel into every home in our local communities of Fairfield Bay,

Greer's Ferry, Heber Springs, but it gets better than that. We have the opportunity to get the gospel into every home in the state of Arkansas.

Yes, you heard me correctly, we can get the gospel into all of these homes. As exciting as this is, we have even more good news. The cost for this outreach is zero dollars.

Yes, you heard that correctly, there is no cost. All of this is able to happen because of Saturate USA, a ministry committed to getting the gospel into every home in America. To learn more about this amazing opportunity, go to standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That is standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org, and click on gospel.

If you have any questions about Standing in the Gap, There is Hope Radio, about me, your host, Richard Dover, or if you have any questions about Saturate USA, you can always give me a call at 1-866-WANT-GOD. That is 1-866-WANT-GOD. Thank you for listening.

You've been listening to There is Hope, and any advice or counsel given was provided for informational purposes only. There is Hope Radio, an outreach of Standing in the Gap. The focus of Standing in the Gap is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America.

To learn more about Standing in the Gap, to obtain a transcript of today's message and other resources, go to standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org, and click on There is Hope Radio.

Transcribed by [TurboScribe.ai](https://turboscribe.ai).

[Forgiveness and Inner Healing](#)