

# FORGIVEN

*“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” — Luke 7:47 (NASB)*

When we think about forgiveness, many things may come to our minds - things that have happened in the past that we are not proud of, or maybe someone has done something to us that was really hurtful. Forgiveness always involves two parties.

In your walk with God, forgiveness is a key to seeing God's power and love released in your life. Think of unforgiveness as a spiritual prison. In your mind's eye, envision a prison cell with chains bolted to the floor - like the scene from a movie or something you would see on a TV show. Whenever you hold a grudge towards someone or refuse to forgive, your soul is chained to this prison spiritually speaking. Ironically, the person you are angry with or are holding resentment towards, biblically, is not the one who is chained. You are imprisoned by any unforgiveness in your heart.

The key to breaking out of these chains is to first go to God with whatever it is you are holding on to. In order to forgive others, you must first understand how much you have been forgiven by your Heavenly Father. When Christ died on the Cross, He paid the penalty of your sins. When you receive Christ's invitation for salvation, you are receiving forgiveness from God. Instead of receiving the just penalty of sin, which is death and separation from God, you are receiving eternal life and are adopted as God's child!

Jesus tells his disciples in John 8:36 (NLT), “So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” Whether you are wrestling with a particular sin in your life or bitterness towards someone, Jesus wants to set you free from that chain. Sin makes you a slave. Accepting God's forgiveness of your sins makes you a free person. The blood of Christ makes atonement for and covers all your mistakes - past, present, and future! Having this knowledge of God's forgiveness should greatly encourage and enable us to forgive others. Once you consider how much you have been forgiven by God, then consider how you should forgive others that have wronged you. Just as important, you must forgive yourself as God has forgiven you.

When you come into agreement with what God says, that you are truly free, your actions and your life will follow suit. Forgiveness is a chain breaker. Any attitude or harmful behavior begins to break under the power of forgiveness. Stagnant relationships can be made new again. As you begin to adopt an attitude of forgiveness, dark forces that come against you trying to chain you to resentment or bitterness are rendered useless. Your new attitude in Christ is like a chain breaker against the devil and his wiles!

When the chains are off, love is on. Keeping your heart and mind set on God are what will thrust you to a new level in your love for people and for God's Word. I believe today you are already set free, as you are agreeing with God's Word. Today you are releasing any past regrets and harmful thoughts in order to walk in the freedom God intended for you to have. Today you are set free from any dark forces that have come against you and your family. When you put God first, nothing can stop you from the destiny God has planned for your life. No chain, no addiction, no person can stop the great plans God has in store for you!

Choose to forgive others. Forgive yourself. Go ahead and start breaking those chains today!

Freedom In Him,



## MCKADE MARSHALL

Actor, Model, Writer, Political Activist  
Entertainment Professional - Malibu, CA

Author of

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