

Forgiveness Brings Freedom

2 Corinthians 2:5-8

Forgiving is really hard sometimes. There are times, in fact, when it might be all but humanly impossible. Offenses that violate us emotionally, spiritually, or physically can rock us to the core, and the words, "I forgive you," may be the furthest thing from our minds. The problem is, an ongoing attitude of unforgiveness creates prison bars for both the offended and the offender.

In 2 Corinthians 2:5-8, Paul addressed a circumstance in which the believers had been deeply offended by a person. While the details are not given, the situation clearly was serious. Paul offered good advice in verses 7,8:

You ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

Paul knew that forgiveness is liberating to the offender who is truly sorry. Of course, not every offender will regret what was done, yet forgiving him or her in an attitude of godly grace and mercy can shatter the prison bars of hatred and resentment. It is the same grace and mercy that Jesus demonstrated in sacrificing His life on the cross for our sins.

If someone in your life has deeply offended you, seek God's help to come to a place of forgiveness. You might be amazed at the tremendous freedom you'll experience.

Why is it so hard to forgive sometimes?

Have you forgiven someone when forgiveness was really hard? How did you feel? How did the other person respond?