

BREAKTHROUGH

Forgiving others

Scriptures: Gal. 5:7; Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:32; Luke 6:37-38; Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Psalm 32:1-2.

1. The opposite of a breakthrough is a set-back. What set-backs have you experienced on your Christian journey? What or who “cut in on you” (Gal.5:7)? What was the result on your faith and outlook?
2. Steve suggested that the inability to forgive others was a cause of some Christians losing their fervour, passions and joy? Has that ever been your experience? How did you move forward to a better place?
3. There is a link between our forgiving others and God forgiving us. See Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:32; Luke 6:37-38; Matt. 6:12, 14-15; and also Matt. 18:21-35 (especially). If God has forgiven all our sins (past, present and future), why is our forgiving others so necessary? [How did Steve attempt to explain this in terms of his own family relationships?]
4. Eva Mozes Kor and her sister Miriam were among the twins cruelly experimented upon by the evil Josef Mengele (nicknamed ‘The Angel of Death’) at Auschwitz concentration camp. She later declared, ““Forgive your worst enemies. The moment I forgave the Nazis, I felt free from Auschwitz and from all the tragedy that had occurred to me”. Many people (including fellow Auschwitz survivors) have criticised her stance claiming that she had no right to forgive. Thoughts?
5. Eva Mozes Kor also stated, “I had an interesting thought that he (Mengele) could never change my forgiving him. I am in charge of it. It was a very powerful feeling. If I can forgive him I can forgive anyone who ever hurt me.” Have you ever thought of forgiveness as a choice that we are in charge of? Do you think that could make a difference to our ability to forgive others?
6. A Christian is to forgive others and Christ forgave him/her. How does Christian forgive so that we might emulate him?

7. PRAYER:

Dear God,

I thank you for loving me unconditionally, and for forgiving my sins against you. Your love and forgiveness for me is simply amazing.

At this moment, I CHOOSE to forgive who has hurt me. Grant me your strength and grace to forgive them as you forgave me. Lord, please replace my bitterness with your love, my anger with your peace, and my hurt with your grace.

Father God, I pray this because I am your child.

Amen