

# Daily Devotional



David Welsh | Forgiveness | 2 Sam. 16 | July 31 . August 1

## ■ day one { forgiveness }

**Is there someone that you find difficult to forgive? A relative, a coach, a boss, a parent?** Could you forgive them IF they did a certain thing? Or will your forgiveness come WHEN they do a certain thing? Qualified forgiveness and partial forgiveness is not God's forgiveness. In II Samuel 16: 5-8, Shimei, a relative of Saul's, obviously has not forgiven David for replacing Saul as king. He even lied about David shedding the blood of Saul's family. But David withheld his anger and later on (II Samuel 19: 19, 20) Shimei begged David's forgiveness for his sin. Have you experienced the situation where forgiveness is easier after things have "cooled off"?

## ■ day two { emotional freedom }

**Do you find carrying a grudge a heavy burden?** Is it stressful is someone is carrying a grudge against you? Whether you need to forgive or be forgiven, either way, you are trapped in a situation that can make you feel enslaved. We'll never have true emotional freedom until we deal with the forgiveness issue and God is in the forgiveness business. What will it take for you to have this emotional freedom? What will you do about it today?

## ■ day three { feelings }

**What would it take to make you feel like forgiving the one who has wronged you?** Wrong perspective! We should not forgive because we feel like it, but because 1) Christ commands us to and, 2) doing the forgiving will make you feel better. Remember, forgiveness generates feelings of love and unforgiveness generates feelings of hatred. We DO our way into better feelings. We do not FEEL our way into better doing. The action comes before the attitude.

## ■ day four { memories }

**Can you truly forget a wrong, even if you forgive the one that wronged you?** Can you forget the pain; the feeling of estrangement between you and the other party? Since we really cannot forget (and perhaps shouldn't), just what is forgiveness, anyway? A suggested definition:

- The surrender of your desire to get even
- The release of your need to hurt them
- A "pre-wrong" relationship with the other party

## ■ day five { forward from hurt }

**What is your reaction when someone wrongs you?** If you are like me, you probably lash out by saying something hateful. Then you might start scheming a way to get even. Or, if you are less vindictive, you might pretend that the hurt never happened and just shrug it off. Unfortunately, this probably won't happen. More likely, unresolved (and unforgiven) hurts will fester and silently sour a relationship. Christ gave a lot of importance to forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6: 12, 14-15). Also, He did not just exhort us to forgive, He showed us how on the cross. When He said, "Forgive them", He did not mean just those that crucified Him; He meant us all. How can you follow His example?

## ■ a word from the writers

This daily devotional and a weekly bible study for Life Groups that coincides with the current sermon is also available on the church website: [ccc.org](http://ccc.org). We loved to hear your comments or suggestions. Email the writing team at: [lampr@ccc.org](mailto:lampr@ccc.org).