

Heartland Christian Center
www.heartlandchristiancenter.com
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“The Power of Forgiveness”

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” - Colossians 3:13

Questions - Always True, Sometimes True, False

1.) If one is really walking with God, life should be easy, and things should come together without a lot of stress and strain. Hassles, adversity, and opposition indicate that God is not leading us in that direction.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

2.) Persistent adversity in our lives indicates a lack of faith. We are conquerors over every situation, meaning that we can and should exercise a victorious faith over negative circumstances because it is God’s will that we not suffer through adversity and He wants us to demonstrate His power.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

3.) That adversity is caused by one’s personal sinfulness. If we are really loving and obeying God as we should we would be spared adversity.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

4.) God is in complete control of everything that happens to us, and all things happen for a reason.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

5.) Adversity is the direct result of demonic oppression or the attack of the Devil. Adversity validates that we are on the right path and the Enemy is trying to discourage us.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

f) Adversity is the necessary consequence of sin’s entrance into the world, and affects believers and unbelievers alike. Everyone will face adversity, which may or may not be related to our choices or actions, or that God or the Devil are involved. Learning to handle adversity well will result in purification of our motives, strengthening of our faith

in God's deliverance, and free us from the bondage of needing to be comfortable, among other things.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

Questions - True/False

1. A person should not be forgiven until he/she ask for it? (T/F)
2. When I have forgiven, I have minimized the offense done to me? (T/F)
3. Forgiveness includes restoring the trust again. (T/F)
4. You have not really forgiven until you have forgotten the offense. (T/F)
5. When I know someone else who is being hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender. (T/F)

I. What the Bible Teaches

- A. There's only one antidote to painful memories - forgiveness.
- B. Why should we forgive?

1. God has forgiven you.

"Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

2. Resentment causes pain.

"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do." (5:2 GN)

3. Resentment can continue your pain for years.

"Some men stay healthy until the day they die... others have no happiness at all; they live and they die with bitter hearts" (21: 23-25 GN)

4. Resentment is unhealthy.

5. You will need more forgiveness in the future.

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV),

II. THREE KEYS TOWARD FORGIVENESS

- A. Relinquish your right to get even.

1. Justice: When we get what we deserve.

2. **Mercy**: When we don't get what we deserve.
3. **Grace**: When we get what we don't deserve.

"Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it." Romans 12:19 (TLB)

B. **Refocus** on God's purpose for your life.

The truth is, if you don't **release** the person who has hurt you, then you will **resemble** him.

"Put your heart right, reach out to God...then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more." Job 11: 13-16

C. **Respond** to the evil with good.

"Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 (NIV)

1. We cannot afford **revenge**.
2. We have to engage in **reconciliation**.
3. Forgiveness is a **choice**, not a **feeling**!
4. Forgiveness is an act of **mercy** (*We don't give them what they deserve.*) toward the offender.

III. Is total forgiveness realistic?

- A. On a purely **human** level, the answer is **no**.
- B. On a **supernatural** level the answer is **yes**!
- C. Forgiveness is nothing less than a **miracle** of God.