

Keys to a Successful Life
Offering Forgiveness

I. Introduction

A. You _____ hurt in life!

II. Why Should I Forgive?

A. Because _____ has forgiven _____

1. Ephesians 4:32 (NAS) *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*
2. You'll never have to forgive anybody _____ than God has already forgiven _____!

B. Because _____ doesn't work

1. Job 5:2a (NLT) *Surely resentment destroys the fool.*
2. Resentment never _____ the other person! It only hurts _____.

C. Because forgiveness is something _____ will need in the _____

1. Matthew 6:14-15 (NAS) ¹⁴*For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*
2. "For your _____ you need to learn to let it go!"
3. When you hold onto a hurt, you're still allowing somebody in the _____ to continue to hurt you _____.

III. What Forgiveness Is Not

A. Forgiveness is not minimizing the _____ of the offense.

B. Forgiveness is not the instant restoration of _____.

1. Forgiveness means I'm going to let go of the hurt, but _____ have to do some things in order to rebuild the _____!

C. Forgiveness is not resuming the _____ without any _____.

1. Forgiveness is not the same as _____.

IV. How Should I Forgive?

A. Recognize we are all _____

1. Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT) *There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins.*

B. Give up my "right" to _____

1. Romans 12:19 (NAS) *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.*
2. Matthew 18:21-22 (NAS) ²¹*Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."*

C. Respond to the "evil" (offense) with _____

1. Luke 6:27-28 (NAS) ²⁷*But I say to you, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."*

D. _____ focusing on the _____

1. God's _____ for my life is greater than any _____, or any pain, that I'm experiencing.
2. We become _____ whatever we _____ on.
3. Job 11:13-15 (NAS) ¹³*If you would direct your heart right and spread out your hand to Him, ¹⁴if iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and do not let wickedness dwell in your tents; ¹⁵then, indeed, you could lift up your face without moral defect, and you would be steadfast and not fear."*
4. Three things to do to overcome hurt:
 - a. Put your _____ right
 - b. Reach out to _____
 - c. _____ the _____ again
5. Job 11:16a (NAS) *"You would forget your trouble, as waters that have passed by."*

V. Conclusion