

# Forgiveness

**Dictionary (worldly) definition:** ceasing to *feel* resentment towards an offender.

**Bible (God's) definition:** a deliberate *choice* to abstain from judgment and to *trust* God's justice towards an offender.

<b>FORGIVENESS IS NOT</b>	<b>FORGIVENESS IS</b>
A feeling	An act of will
Abandonment of justice	Trusting God's justice towards the offender
Trusting the offender	A full pardon
Making ourselves vulnerable to further abuse	What we must do to obtain forgiveness for ourselves
Liking the offender	A commandment of God
Friendship with the offender	An act of faith
Denial (it never happened)	An act of courage
Tolerance (it's OK)	An act requiring God's grace
Forgetting	Crucial to a successful prayer life
Turning the other cheek	Crucial to all present & future relationships
Making a joke of the offense	Trusting God to heal the pain
Politeness or tactfulness	Overcoming evil with good
Passive non-response (stuffing)	The key to freedom

## Forgiveness is a 3-Part Decision

1. I will not raise this against you.
2. I will not raise it with someone else.
3. I will not raise it again.

## Scriptures on Forgiveness

Matthew 5:7  
Mark 11:22-26

Matthew 6:12,14-15  
Luke 6:36-38  
Hebrews 12:15

Matthew 18:21-35  
Luke 17:1-6