

How To Forgive God's Way

1. **Choose to forgive as an act of obedience:** You have to remember that choosing to forgive is about following God's command; it's not dependent on our feelings or emotions. God never wastes our suffering but uses it to build our character, maturity, and ability to help others.
2. **Understand that forgiveness doesn't mean reunion or reconciliation:** It's important to understand that forgiveness doesn't equate to reunion or reconciliation and it doesn't mean that trust has been restored. You can forgive someone even if that person who caused the harm never changes, themselves.
3. **Know that forgiveness is a journey:** Forgiveness doesn't happen instantly; it is a process, especially when the harm done is significant. Forgiveness involves both a decision and a process. You have to not only make the decision to forgive what happened, but then walk through the process of forgiving the impact of those events.
4. **Invite the Holy Spirit to empower forgiveness in you:** Recognize that the power to truly forgive comes from Jesus' spirit within you. Invite the Spirit of God to empower you to forgive, to help you stop talking about the offense, and to cease plotting revenge. This process includes continuously seeking God's help, especially when feelings of anger re-emerge.
5. **Conquer evil by doing good:** The final step is about responding to harm not with more harm, but by doing good. This involves praying for the person who caused harm and speaking less of their offenses. C.S. Lewis used a metaphor of renovation to illustrate this point: We may think we only need small repairs, but God is breaking down walls to make a palace for Himself. This transformation requires letting go of the past and the harm done, using the power of Jesus to drain the poison of unforgiveness and resentment, and choosing to get better rather than staying bitter.