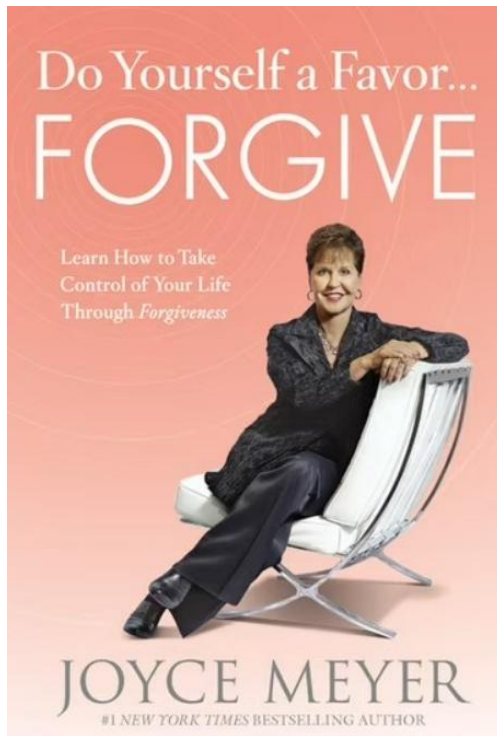




## Chapter 9 “Why Forgive?”

### 1. Unforgiveness opens a legal right to Satan

When we hold on to bitterness and offense, we give the enemy an opportunity to influence our thoughts, attitudes, and relationships. Unforgiveness becomes an open door.

- Ephesians 4:26–27 — “Do not give the devil a foothold.”
- 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 — forgiveness prevents Satan from gaining legal right over us.

#### Teaching point:

Unforgiveness is not just emotional; it is spiritual. What we refuse to release can become an entry point for the enemy.

### 2. Unforgiveness hinders the flow of love toward God and others

A bitter heart struggles to freely love. Offense hardens us and interferes with the love God wants to pour into and through us.

- 1 John 4:20 — we cannot claim to love God while hating our brother.
- John 13:34–35 — love is the mark of Christ’s disciples.
- Colossians 3:14 — love is the bond of perfection.

#### Teaching point:

Love cannot flow freely through a heart that is clogged with resentment.

### 3. Unforgiveness blocks faith and hinders prayer

A heart full of offense is not in a healthy position to trust God fully. Unforgiveness disrupts spiritual confidence and intimacy with God.

- Mark 11:24–25 — when you stand praying, forgive.
- Matthew 6:14–15 — forgiveness is tied to our relationship with God.
- James 1:6–8 — spiritual instability affects faith.

#### Teaching point:

You cannot hold tightly to bitterness and freely move in faith at the same time.

**4. Unforgiveness makes us miserable and steals our joy**

When people replay offenses in their minds, they relive the hurt repeatedly. Joy disappears when bitterness takes root.

- Proverbs 15:13 — the condition of the heart affects the spirit.
- Psalm 51:10–12 — restoration of joy comes through a right heart.
- Romans 14:17 — the kingdom of God includes righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

**Teaching point:**

Unforgiveness punishes the person carrying it. It keeps pain active and joy suppressed.

**5. Unforgiveness poisons our attitude and defiles others**

Bitterness does not stay private. It affects speech, behavior, relationships, and atmosphere. What is festering in the heart eventually spills onto others.

Scripture:

- Hebrews 12:15 — the root of bitterness troubles many and defiles many.
- Ephesians 4:31–32 — bitterness, wrath, anger, and malice must be put away.
- Luke 6:45 — out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

**Teaching point:**

A poisoned heart produces a poisoned atmosphere. What we do not heal, we often spread.

**Summary statement - “Forgiveness is not saying the wrong done to us was acceptable. Forgiveness is choosing obedience to God so the wrong does not continue ruling our lives.”**

**Closing challenge:**

“Who am I still holding in the prison of my heart? And is that unforgiveness harming me more than the person who hurt me?”

**Application:**

Forgiveness is not always easy, but it is necessary. God never commands us to do something without also giving us the grace to obey. When we forgive, we close doors to the enemy, restore the flow of love, strengthen our faith, recover our joy, and protect both our hearts and the people around us.

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