

Forgiveness & Salvation: What Does Matthew 6:14–15 Mean?

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

— Matthew 6:14–15

What It Doesn’t Mean

- You lose your salvation if you fail to forgive once
- God’s forgiveness is earned by your performance
- Salvation is based on works

What It Does Mean

- Unforgiveness reveals a heart that may not fully grasp grace
- Persistent bitterness blocks intimacy with God
- Forgiveness is a fruit of salvation, not a prerequisite

Key Truths

Question

Biblical Response

Will God revoke forgiveness?

No—but unforgiveness may reveal a heart not surrendered to grace

Am I going to hell if I don’t forgive?

Not if you’re truly in Christ—but bitterness is spiritually dangerous

Is this salvation by works?

No—salvation is by grace through faith; forgiveness is a response to grace

Does unforgiveness break my relationship with Christ?

Not broken, but strained—it blocks joy, peace, and spiritual growth

Is this just about feelings?

No—it’s about alignment with God’s heart and walking in step with the Spirit

Practical Takeaways

- Forgiveness is not forgetting—it’s releasing the debt
 - You can forgive without reconciling or trusting again
 - Forgiveness protects your heart and honors the gospel
 - When forgiveness feels impossible, return to the cross
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