

Seventy Times Seven

Matthew 18:21-35



An Unforgiving spirit will:

- * hurt my relationship to God
- * affect my ability to hear God
- * hinder God answering my prayers
- * warp my personality
- * harden my countenance
- * rob _{me} of joy and peace
- * harm my relationships
- * create turmoil in my marriage
- * scar my children
- * negatively affect my health

Forgiveness is not pardon

Forgiveness is clearing a person's record with me, and transferring the responsibility for punishment to God and government.

Six lessons about forgiveness from God's point of view

- 1) I must guard my Christian testimony
- 2) See the offender as an instrument in God's hands
- 3) Let hurt draw attention to my offender's needs
- 4) bitterness is a type of retribution
- 5) Realize the offender is experiencing the rebukes of life
- 6) Demonstrate God's willingness to forgive