

## Why Forgiveness is Like Insurance



“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Matthew 6:14

I hate paying health insurance when I am healthy. But when I am sick it is a different story. I am very thankful for cheap doctor’s visits and prescriptions here, in Ghana, that would normally cost me hundreds of dollars that I don’t have. Did you know that forgiveness is like health insurance?

**Our Souls are Sick:** You see, just like with the human body that is prone to sickness and disease, without repentance, our souls are prone to sin and disease. That is why Jesus came: to save us from our sick, sinful hearts. Scripture: “When Jesus heard it, He saith unto them.” “They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Mark 2:17 Did you know that Salvation actually means to salve, a healing ointment (deliverance, saving health, welfare) So imagine your sick soul, with all it’s hurts and failings, and Jesus coming to put an eternally healing salve on your wound that Jesus paid for with His own blood. That’s the good news of the Gospel: that there is hope for our healing in Jesus. And it is freely given to everyone who asks for the wonderful gift of Healing.

**However, Jesus gives one major caution:** “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive you.”

Matt. 6:14

You see, loving and forgiving those who hurt us is how we stay enrolled in our soul insurance plan. This soul insurance is incredible! God promises to forgive every one of His children’s sins, and on the last day bring us to Heaven to live with Him. We can do nothing to earn it. “For by grace are ye saved through Faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.” Eph. 2:8-9 But we tell Him that we still gratefully receive His amazing insurance policy thru repentance and forgiving others. Listen to this story Jesus told to illustrate this.

“Then came Peter to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?” “Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven!” “Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants .” “And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.” “But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife and children, and all that he had, and payment be made.” “The servant therefore fell down and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me and I will pay thee all.”

“Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.” “But the same servant went out and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, pay me that thou owest.” “And the fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.” “And he would not: but went and cast him into prison till he pay the debt.” “So when the fellowservant saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.” “Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?” And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due him.” “So likewise shall my Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.” Matthew 18:21-35

**Am I Forgiving People that Treat me Poorly?**

That is very difficult to do. I have recently been dealing with lots of hurts and tough situations, but the intense amounts of offense I have committed toward God “pales” in comparison with how others might have hurt me. Most of the time, people don’t even know that they have badly hurt you. That is why Jesus said to God about us while on earth, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34 If Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God can say that about all the people who brutally mistreated Him, and killed Him, then I can certainly give grace to others when it has been so lavishly given to me, by forgiving them in love. That is how I stayed insured for the many sins that I need Jesus to forgive me for. “Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall obtain Mercy.” Matt. 5:7 **Has Your Insurance Lapsed?** Every now and then, my insurance provider calls me if I’m late on a payment on my bill, saying, “You are about to be without coverage soon. That makes me feel concerned, because if something bad were to happen, then I would be on my own; but then I just pay my bill, if I have the money. And then I am re-enrolled again, and totally covered. God wants to give us complete coverage for all our sins, and souls that hurt, even if we have been without coverage for a while to unforgiven sin.”

Instead of having to pay a bill, you pray your bill by asking Jesus for forgiveness and loving others as you love yourself. Sometime I do, instead of thinking evil thoughts toward someone is to pray a blessing over them when I find myself dwelling on my hurts again. This is what Jesus commands: “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.” Matt. 5:44-45 These words of Jesus help you to daily forgive people, because some wounds are very deep and you need to daily apply the healing salve of forgiveness until the wounds are healed. The key is just that we keep applying it, and don’t give up, because Jesus will help you to heal.

**Conclusion:** Have you been living “uninsured?” Why don’t you take some time to think of hurt that has been trapped in your heart. Releasing them will not only free you of their weight, but it will open you up to receive God’s amazing insurance of forgiveness, and healing. Let’s pray a blessing for the ones we hold bad thoughts about, and let’s pray a blessing for them, telling Jesus we give them mercy just as He has given us so much mercy and grace; and thank Him for all the sins that He has forgiven us. God’s forgiven is truly amazing!

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you that we are now under grace and I can have forgiveness for all my sins which I have done, and help me to be a good reflection of the grace You have shown to those around me. Please help me to be a good example of your love and forgiveness. It is my desire to be a person of great grace and mercy. Lord, I forgive all those who have wronged me, and ask You to pour out Your Spirit on them, and give them many cause their barren land to rejoice! In Jesus’ Name Amen

**A Good Prayer to pray often:**

“Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed and enlarge my borders, and that thy hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil (bad, calamity) that is may not grieve me, (cause me pain, or worry)! And God granted my request!” 1 Chronicles 4:10

**Scriptures:** “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our Faith: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 “For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find Grace to help in the time of need.” Hebrews 4:16