

A Forgiving Spirit

by Gene Taylor Centerville Rd. church of Christ Tallahassee, FL

There is no more important characteristic found in the human heart than forgiveness. Its importance is seen in the home, church, community and nation. Someone has said there are "three kindred spirits in the heart -- giving, thanksgiving and forgiving. Usually where one is found, all are found." A forgiving heart is an essential quality every child of God should have (Eph. 4:32).

Reasons to Be Forgiving

God commands it (Mark 11:25). This should be sufficient reason for any right-thinking person to be forgiving because God's promises rest upon obedience to His word. But forgiveness on mere obedience to command usually falls short of what it should be. Anything done out of a sense of duty or necessity is usually not from the heart (cf. 2 Cor. 9:5-7). Consider the parent who makes the child say "I'm sorry" when, in reality, he is not sorry at all. He says it but only to appease his parent.

The example of Jesus (I Pet. 2:21; Phil. 2:3-5; Luke 23:34). As our example in all things, He would not require of us that which He would not do Himself. Even when His life was taken from Him, He had a forgiving attitude. It is said of Him, "He gave all, then forgave."

We have been forgiven. God, in Christ, has forgiven the sins of the Christian (Eph. 4:32). As Christ has forgiven him, he is to forgive others (Col. 3:13). One who is unwilling to forgive after he has been forgiven is viewed disdainfully by the God of heaven (Matt. 18:21-35).

In order to have future forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15).

What It Means to Forgive

Forgiveness is more than just speaking the words. It must be sincere and from the heart. It must be patterned after the forgiveness God has granted to us. It must be accompanied by actions which befit true forgiveness.

Forgiveness involves a kind attitude -- abandoning all animosity and hatred. All bitterness, anger, wrath, clamor and evil speaking should be put away (Eph. 4:31). We can hold no grudges. One must deny the impulse to get even and seek to do the forgiven one good.

Forgiveness involves forgetting (Heb. 8:12), but what does it mean to forget? It is impossible for a person to completely obliterate the wrong from his mind. Rather it means to not hold the person accountable for it anymore. When forgiveness is granted that should end the matter. It should never again be dredged up or held against the one who has been forgiven.

Forgiveness should be given by the "golden rule" (Matt. 7:12). One should always be willing to forgive -- even at repeated offenses. Matthew 18:21-22 has the apostle Peter asking, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."



Smile and pay someone a compliment today.



NEWSLETTER

Sept. 02, 2018

Mark Dailey, evangelist
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Schedule of Services

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Sunday AM Bible Study | 9:45 AM |
| Sunday AM Worship | 11:00 AM |
| No Sunday PM Service | |
| Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study | 10:00 AM |
| Wednesday PM Bible Study | 7:00 PM |

La Salle
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A place of worship and healing.

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during worship.



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries
2350 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270 843-3038
potterministries.org

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Prayer List *In our prayers let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

Those that attend: Mildred Lynum, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Dennis & Darlene Reed, Butts & Edie Sumner, Chris Highway, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, Willow McFarland, Tahlia Willis, Logan Bennett, Kyra Kyle, Sonny & Linda Stine, Brenda Nelson, Carol Jones, Diane Mellott, and Wilma Patterson.

People in other places: Tim Mellott and family, T.J., Wednesday Rahelich, Jack Openshaw, Frank's niece, Betty & Dennis Leistner, Denise Garlitz' grandchildren and her son Jeff, Mary Lou, Susan Barrett & family, Tony & Eglia Grana, Karen Anstee, George Beckwith, Cindy, Doris & Mary Jane Mess, Andrea, Red & Goldie Crow, Samantha Allee, Cheryl Wheeler, Levi, Jeanne Johns, Loretta Gorito, Kay Ables, Gloria, Dorothea Johnson, Tammy, Rita D, Jenna, Irene Jurek, Billie Jo Potter, Debbie Curry, Jaye Boyle, Barry Mitchell, Martha, Andrew, Vanessa Lewis, Williams family, Mary, Jean Fitzgerald, Mary Lou & Louise (Anna Brink's sisters), Gary, Malissa Layton, Th'alise Robinson, Ashley, Noreen Andrews, Emily Sestack, Keith Marten, Debbie, Minnee, Holly Leistner, Dennis Leistner, Leonard Amanatey, Martha, Denise and Darlene's brother Dale, Vanessa Lewis, Michael Highway, the Rogers family, Eric Kauffman, Belinda Porter, and Ivey Shoemaker,

Updates:

Wilma Patterson continues to see the doctor about her eye problem.

Mildred Lynum Let's continue to pray for her.

Peggy Golias She is back home from the hospital. Let's continue to pray for her.

Jada Grubbs, Wayne & Sherry's youngest granddaughter, saw the ENT doctor on Monday and was put on steroids and antibiotics to deal with a blocked sinus.

Carol Jones is asking for prayers for the following acquaintances of hers dealing with health problems: **Dean**, and also **Jim & Edith Faery**.

B. J. Boyle Maria Swindlehurst is asking for prayers for him for a good recovery from recent surgery. He is Maria's niece's father-in-law.

Randy Heller, a friend of Diane Mellott, who will be starting dialysis treatments.

Lynn Gomez We recently had visitors from Xenia, OH. Lynn is an acquaintance of our visitors. They requested prayers on Lynn's behalf. Lynn lives in California and recently had back surgery.

Gloria Zachery saw a neurosurgeon Monday at Roswell to check out a mass on her skull and he's not sure what's going on so he ordered some more tests before doing a biopsy.

Leonard, Zach Hansen's girlfriend's grandfather, underwent surgery last week for a thyroid tumor and the doctors were unable to operate. He is scheduled for radiation to shrink the tumor.

Haskell Paden, father of former member here Cyndi Lewis, has sepsis and is in ICU in Texas.

Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.

Also

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other problems.

Let's not only remember those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Let's remember to pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those who may be traveling.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Sun. AM Adult Bible Study Book of James

Sermon Topic Today: *The Gentile Disciple*

Scripture Reading: *Luke 14:25-27*

No Sun. PM Bible Study

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study 10:00 AM at the building.

Wed. PM Bible Study 2nd Samuel

TODAY

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Announcements | Ron Cameron |
| Song Leader | Marvis Garrett |
| Direct Communion | Bruce Brink |
| Serve | Ron Cameron |
| Serve | Rick Fees |
| Serve | Matt Nichols |
| Clean Trays | Audrey Dailey |

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

- Sep. 03** Labor Day
- Sep. 04** Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class resumes 10 AM here at the building.
- Sep. 08** Charles and Bruce will be showing the movie "Risen" at 7 PM at the building.
- Sep. 08** 27th Annual Area-Wide Sing Jamestown church of Christ Please see posting.
- Sep. 09** National Grandparents Day
- Sep. 16** Men's Business Meeting

Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday morning ladies Bible class resumes on TUESDAY Sept. 04 at 10 AM sharp with '*Gems in Genesis*' from the Christian Woman magazine. Please join us as we start the coming year of study with a worship and praise session. We pray spirits will be lifted and minds prepared to readily receive God's messages.

See Audrey Dailey to obtain a copy of the lesson so you can be prepared to join the bible study discussion. Lessons are \$3.



Read Me



Ladies Save the date....

Dec. 15 Ladies Holiday Party at Antonios
Details to follow later.



School Starts Back This Week