



CHRISTMAS: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Christmas is a season of gifts, but one of the greatest gifts God offers us is the life-changing gift of forgiveness. This series invites us to explore that gift through three essential movements: *Receiving* the gift of forgiveness, *Giving* the gift of forgiveness, and ultimately *Living* a life shaped by forgiveness. When we embrace these three dimensions, forgiveness becomes more than an idea, it becomes a transforming power that heals relationships, restores hope, and renews hearts. And when we open this gift fully, it just might make this Christmas the BEST ONE EVER! Let's begin the journey together.

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Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

December 04, 2025

Scripture: Isaiah 1:18-20; Psalm 32:1-2; Ephesians 1:7-10

Music: Because Of Bethlehem, sung by Matthew West - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phLcUdz1Wow>

Videos: WWII Soldier's Life a Testimony to Forgiveness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN22AJyM0OQ>

Resources: *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* by Dr. Timothy Keller

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS. Have you ever wondered what gift you would most like to receive—the one that would change everything about your life? This Christmas, the greatest gift offered to us is the forgiveness of Jesus, a gift that heals, restores, and sets us free. Before we can give forgiveness to anyone else, we must first experience the joy of receiving it personally and deeply. When we unwrap God's grace toward us, it becomes the starting point for a life transformed. This could be the BEST CHRISTMAS EVER as we receive the gift that changes everything—His forgiveness.

Scripture anchors this truth:

1. Isaiah 1:18 — "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow..."
2. Psalm 32:1-2 — "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven..."
3. Ephesians 1:7 — "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..."

The biblical story is full of men who needed forgiveness: David, Peter, and the Prodigal Son—men who experienced failure, brokenness, shame, and ultimately restoring grace.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS?

1. _____ → Forgiveness begins with truth about what we've done and the harm caused. Dr. Cloud teaches: "Grace always meets reality. The parts of ourselves we hide cannot be healed."
2. _____ → Receiving forgiveness requires owning our part—without excuses or blame. Allender writes: "We cannot heal what we continue to excuse."
3. _____ —Not Just Cognitive Agreement → Many accept forgiveness theologically but not emotionally. You can know you're forgiven but still feel condemned. Allender: "To receive forgiveness is to allow God to speak a truer word over your shame."
4. _____ (Letting Go of Self-Punishment) → Some don't believe they deserve forgiveness and live in self-imposed penance. Cloud: "We resist grace when we insist on paying for what has already been paid for."
5. _____ → Forgiveness is relational. It happens in the presence of God or others.

HINDRANCES THAT BLOCK FORGIVENESS

1. _____ identity.
2. _____ of vulnerability.
3. _____ with authority figures.
4. _____ and _____.
5. _____ and internal punishment.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What is the greatest failure of your life? What mistake that you have made most shows what a sinner you are?
2. Who has forgiven you that most demonstrates "Jesus with skin" to you?
3. What would change if you fully received Christ's forgiveness?



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Men's Roundtable



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Scripture – The Message

Isaiah 1:18-20 - [18](#) "Come. Sit down. Let's argue this out." This is God's Message: "If your sins are blood-red, they'll be snow-white. If they're red like crimson, they'll be like wool. [19](#) If you'll willingly obey, you'll feast like kings. [20](#) But if you're willful and stubborn, you'll die like dogs." That's right. God says so. Those Who Walk Out on God

Psalms 32:1-2 - [1](#) Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be - you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean. [2](#) Count yourself lucky - God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from him.

Ephesians 1:7-10 - [7](#) Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people - free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! [8](#) He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, [9](#) letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, [10](#) a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

"Because Of Bethlehem" by Matthew West

<p>Just a tiny nowhere town With a tiny no-room inn This is where the greatest story ever told begins Where just a tiny beating heart Had all creation leaning in That night the world forever changed Because of Bethlehem It's where a star led to a stable A baby's cry made angels sing And the search to find a savior Led to Heaven's humble King Where the wise men found the answer The shepherds found the lamb And I found my Immanuel Because of Bethlehem Love is born Hope is here</p>	<p>Heaven's light has made the darkness disappear Peace on earth Good will to men God with us All because of Bethlehem From a child in a cradle To a king upon a cross He knew the road was leading Him To pay a crimson cost And when no other arms could carry (Ooh-ooh-ooh) The weight of all our sin (Ooh-ooh-ooh) He took the fall and it happened all (Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh) Because of Bethlehem (Ooh-ooh-ooh) Love is born Hope is here Heaven's light has made The darkness disappear Peace on earth Good will to men</p>	<p>God with us All because of Bethlehem Because of Bethlehem From a tomb that love left empty To a Father's right hand throne And a promise He's preparing us A place we'll soon call home He who came to earth from heaven Is coming back again And our eyes will see eternity Because of Bethlehem Love is born Hope is here Heaven's light has made The darkness disappear Peace on earth Good will to men God with us All because of Bethlehem God with us All because of Bethlehem</p>
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