



OUR HEARTS ON  
**FIRE!**

six qualities from Acts to ignite your life

## Acts 26:12-23

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*Spiritual Quality to ignite your life #2*

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# *FORGIVENESS:*

*Receiving and Giving it away*

# The Magnitude of the Question

**Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?

Up to seven times?”

# A New Standard

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

# The Standard Explained

*Scene One - Accounts Need to Be Settled*

**Matthew 18:23-25**

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.



# The Standard Explained

*Scene Two - "But I can't pay!"*

**Matthew 18:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

# The Standard Explained

*Scene Three - "Pay me back what you owe me!"*

**Matthew 18:28-31**

<sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow-servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>“His fellow-servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

<sup>30</sup>“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

# The Standard Explained

*Scene Four - The master's response to the  
servant's lack of forgiveness*

**Matthew 18:28-31**

<sup>32</sup>“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

<sup>33</sup>Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow-servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

# Jesus' ultimate point:

*Forgiveness is not optional for those who have been forgiven*

**Matthew 18:35**

<sup>35</sup>“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

*But, wait a minute – how in the world do I forgive someone who has really wronged me?*

**What forgiveness is:**

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**THOMAS WATSON (c.1620-1686)**

# What forgiveness is:

When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them.

~ Thomas Watson, *Body of Divinity*, p. 581



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"We are not bound to trust an enemy; but we are bound to forgive him."  
~ Thomas Watson, *Body of Divinity*, p. 581

# The journey of forgiveness:

1. Prayer for the reminder of how much your debt was.  
**THE TOP OF THE STAIRS**



# The journey of forgiveness:

2. Prayer for the Holy Spirit to move you to forgive.  
THE DESCENT DOWN THE STAIRS, part 1.



# The journey of forgiveness:

3. Pray for them, wish well upon them.
- THE DESCENT DOWN THE STAIRS, part 2.



# The journey of forgiveness:

4. Release, through prayer, that person from any debt of hatred, malice or anger you have against them and hand them over to God.

THE INTERACTION AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS





“I believe [unforgiveness] is keeping more people from having power with God than any other thing -- they are not willing to cultivate the spirit of forgiveness. If we allow the root of bitterness to spring up in our hearts against someone, our prayer will not be answered. It may not be an easy thing to live in sweet fellowship with all those with whom we come in contact; but that is what the grace of God is given to us for.”

~ D.L. Moody, *Prevailing Prayer*, p.46

"In the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy."

~Philip Yancey, *What's so Amazing about Grace?* p. 83

# The journey of forgiveness:

5. If possible, seek reconciliation with the individual. This may  
NOT be possible.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL - RESTORATION



*A two part question for  
you....*