

Christmas Eve: Relational Peace On Earth

(Luke 2:10-14 KJV) And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe (gift) wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Relational Peace On Earth

(Matthew 18:21 NLT) Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

(Matthew 18:22 NLT) "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

✓ **Forgiveness is unlimited.**

✓ **Forgiveness is releasing a debt.**

✓ **Forgiveness is a heart issue.**

How Do I Forgive?

1. Accept the gift of forgiveness.

(John 4:10 NLT) Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give it to you.

(John 14:27 NLT) I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

2. Ask for God's help with those who hurt you.

(Luke 6:28 NLT) Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

(Matthew 6:14-15 NIV) For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

3. Allow Jesus to work in your heart.

(Luke 23:34 NIV) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest. - Craig Groeschel