

CHRIST PROCLAIMERS MINISTRY

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FORGIVENESS

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
— Ephesians 4:32



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FORGIVING THE BIBLE WAY

Key characteristics of forgiveness
from the heart, with humility and
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Topics at a Glance

HOW TO FORGIVE

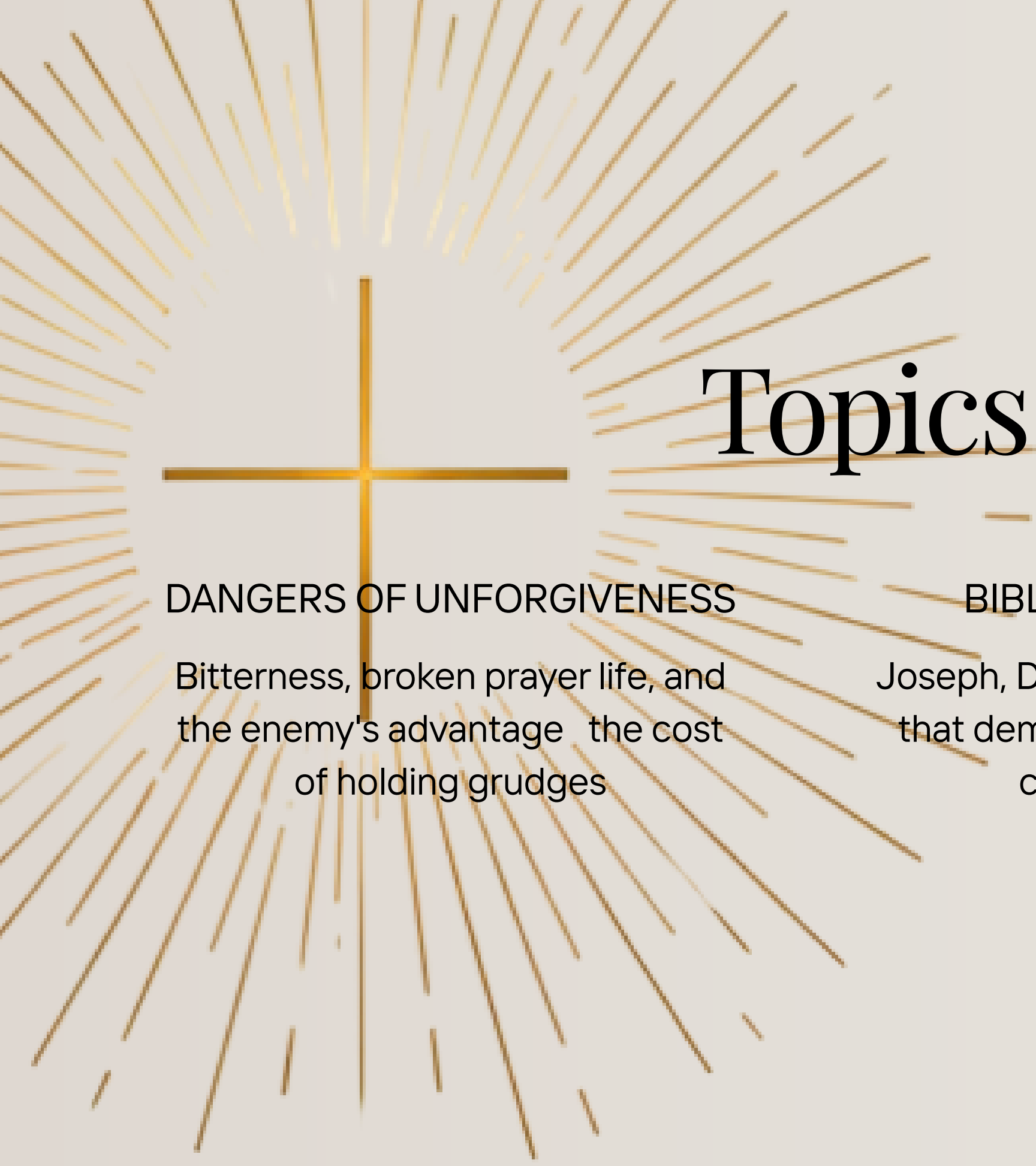
Practical biblical steps:
acknowledge hurt, refuse revenge,
pray for grace, and trust God for
justice

IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God commands it, reflects Christ's
character, protects the heart, and
preserves unity in church and family

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Freedom from bitterness, peace
with God, healing relationships,
spiritual growth, and answered
prayers



Topics at a Glance

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JESUS: OUR PERFECT CASE STUDY

"Father, forgive them" Christ's ultimate act of forgiveness from the cross

Introduction to Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not denial or pretending that the hurt never happened. It is a deliberate act of releasing the offender from personal revenge and choosing mercy because God forgave us first. Forgiveness is not weakness; it is obedience to God. (Colossians 3:13, Matthew 6:14–15)

"Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." — Ephesians 4:32

What Is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness means releasing the offender from personal revenge and leaving judgment in God's hands. It is choosing mercy over bitterness, restoring peace where possible, and trusting God to be the righteous Judge.

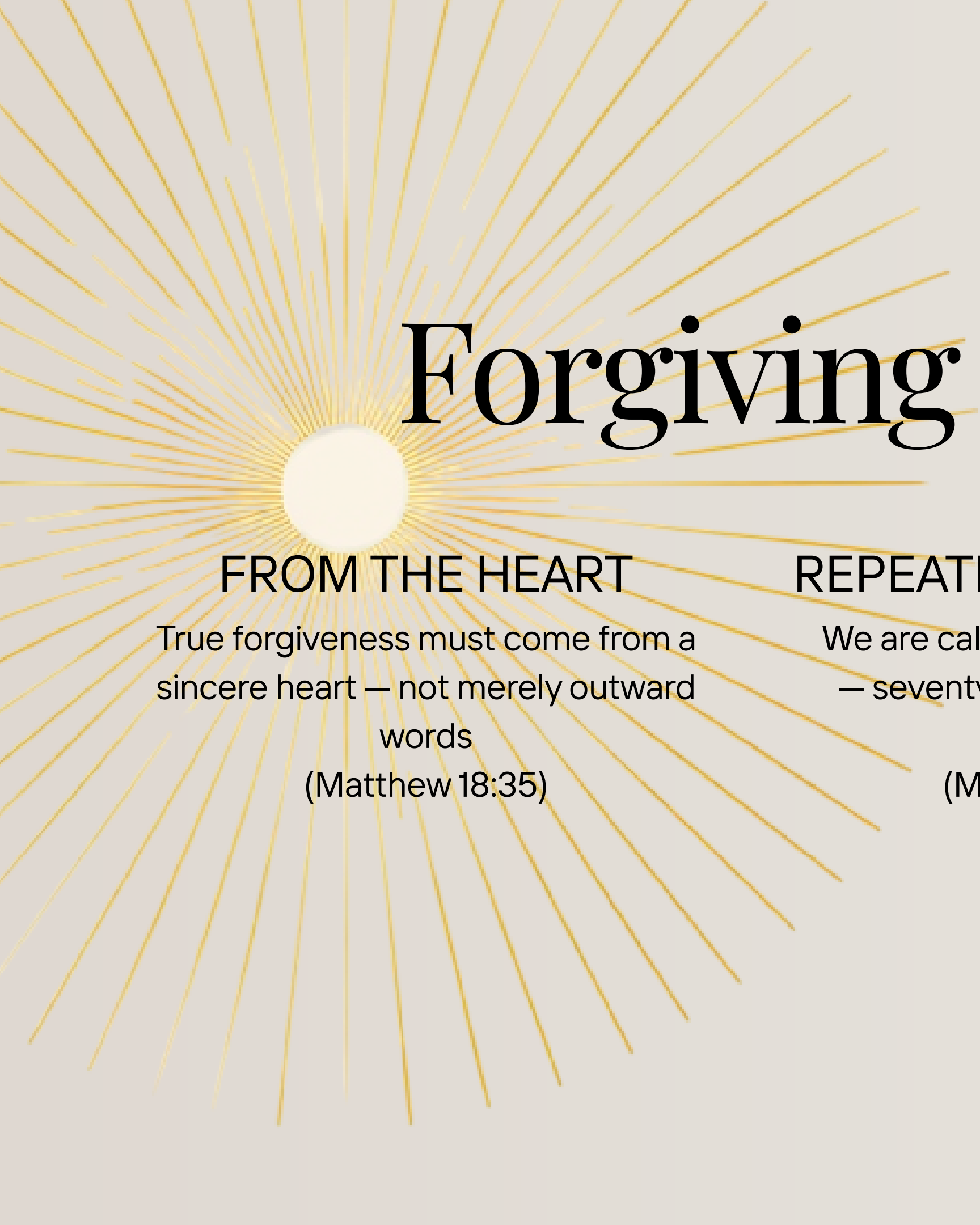
"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." — Romans 12:19

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any." — Mark 11:25

God's Forgiveness Toward Us

God forgives sinners through Christ — not because of our merit, but because of His boundless mercy and grace. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12). Though our sins be as scarlet, He makes them white as snow (Isaiah 1:18). Our forgiveness of others must flow from the forgiveness we have already received from Him.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." — 1 John 1:9



Forgiving the Bible Way

FROM THE HEART

True forgiveness must come from a sincere heart — not merely outward words
(Matthew 18:35)

REPEATED FORGIVENESS

We are called to forgive repeatedly — seventy times seven — without keeping count
(Matthew 18:21–22)

CHRIST-CENTERED

Our forgiveness is rooted in Christ — forgiving one another as God for Christ's sake forgave us
(Ephesians 4:32)



How to Forgive

ACKNOWLEDGE & PRAY

Acknowledge your hurt honestly before God. Pray for His grace and strength to forgive. (Matthew 5:44)

REFUSE & RELEASE

Refuse the path of revenge.
Release bitterness from your heart
and let God be your vindicator.
(Romans 12:18–19)

SEEK PEACE & TRUST

Seek peace where possible. Trust
God for justice and walk forward in
freedom and healing. (Romans
12:20–21)

Importance of Forgiveness

GOD'S COMMAND

Forgiveness is not optional — it is a divine command we must obey.

John 13:34–35

CHRIST'S CHARACTER

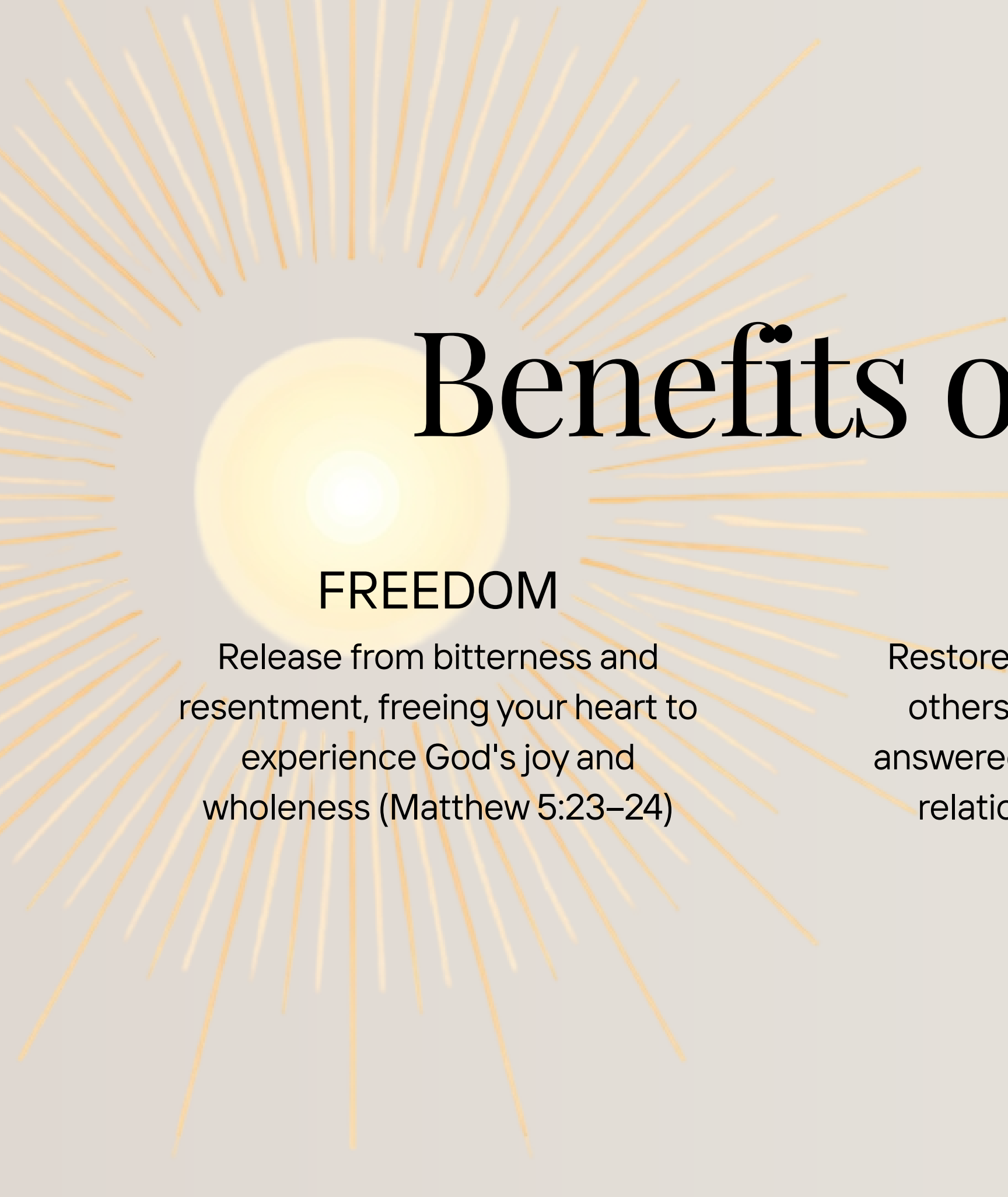
Forgiving others reflects the love and mercy of Christ living within us.

Ephesians 4:32

HEART PROTECTION

Forgiveness guards the heart from bitterness and preserves unity.

Hebrews 12:14–15



Benefits of Forgiveness

FREEDOM

Release from bitterness and resentment, freeing your heart to experience God's joy and wholeness (Matthew 5:23–24)

PEACE

Restored peace with God and others, clearing the way for answered prayers and renewed relationships (James 5:16)

HEALING & GROWTH

Healing of broken bonds, spiritual maturity, and a heart made more like Christ through the act of forgiving

Dangers of Unforgiveness

Holding onto unforgiveness opens the door to bitterness, spiritual stagnation, and broken relationships. It hinders our prayers, grieves the Holy Spirit, and gives Satan an advantage over our lives. "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." — 2 Corinthians 2:10–11. "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you." — Hebrews 12:15

A bitter heart is a captive heart — forgiveness is the key to freedom.

Biblical Example: Joseph Forgave His Brothers

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery out of jealousy, yet after years of suffering, imprisonment, and trials, Joseph rose to become second-in-command in Egypt. When he finally revealed himself to his brothers, he wept and chose mercy over revenge. He recognized God's sovereign hand in his pain, saying: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." — Genesis 50:20

Scriptures: Genesis 45:4–8; Genesis 50:20–21

*"God sent me before you to preserve life." — Genesis
45:5*

Biblical Example — David Spared Saul

Even when David had the perfect opportunity to take revenge on King Saul, he refused. Saul had pursued David relentlessly, yet David chose mercy over retaliation — recognising Saul as God's anointed. This act of restraint was not weakness; it was deep reverence for God and a powerful demonstration of forgiveness in action.

"The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him."

— 1 Samuel 24:6

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 24:6–12

True forgiveness honours God by leaving vengeance in His hands.

Biblical Example — Stephen Forgave His Killers

As Stephen was being stoned to death, he did not cry out in anger or bitterness. Instead, he knelt down and prayed for those taking his life. Stephen had witnessed the forgiveness of Christ on the cross, and in his final moments, he reflected that same grace. His example shows that forgiveness is possible even in the most extreme circumstances — not by human strength, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 7:59–60 — "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

Like Stephen, we are called to forgive — even when it costs us everything.

*"Father, forgive them; for they know not what
they do."*

LUKE 23:34 — JESUS CHRIST: THE PERFECT
CASE STUDY

Jesus' Teaching on Forgiveness

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35) reveals a powerful truth: a servant forgiven an enormous debt refused to forgive a small debt owed to him. His master was furious. The lesson is clear — those who have been forgiven much by God must forgive others. Forgiveness is not optional; it is the natural response of a heart that truly understands God's grace.

*"Forgiven people must forgive others." — Matthew
18:35*

Let's Discuss

"Lord, search my heart.
Is there anyone I have refused to forgive?"
— Psalm 139:23–24



Key Lessons Summary

GOD FORGAVE FIRST

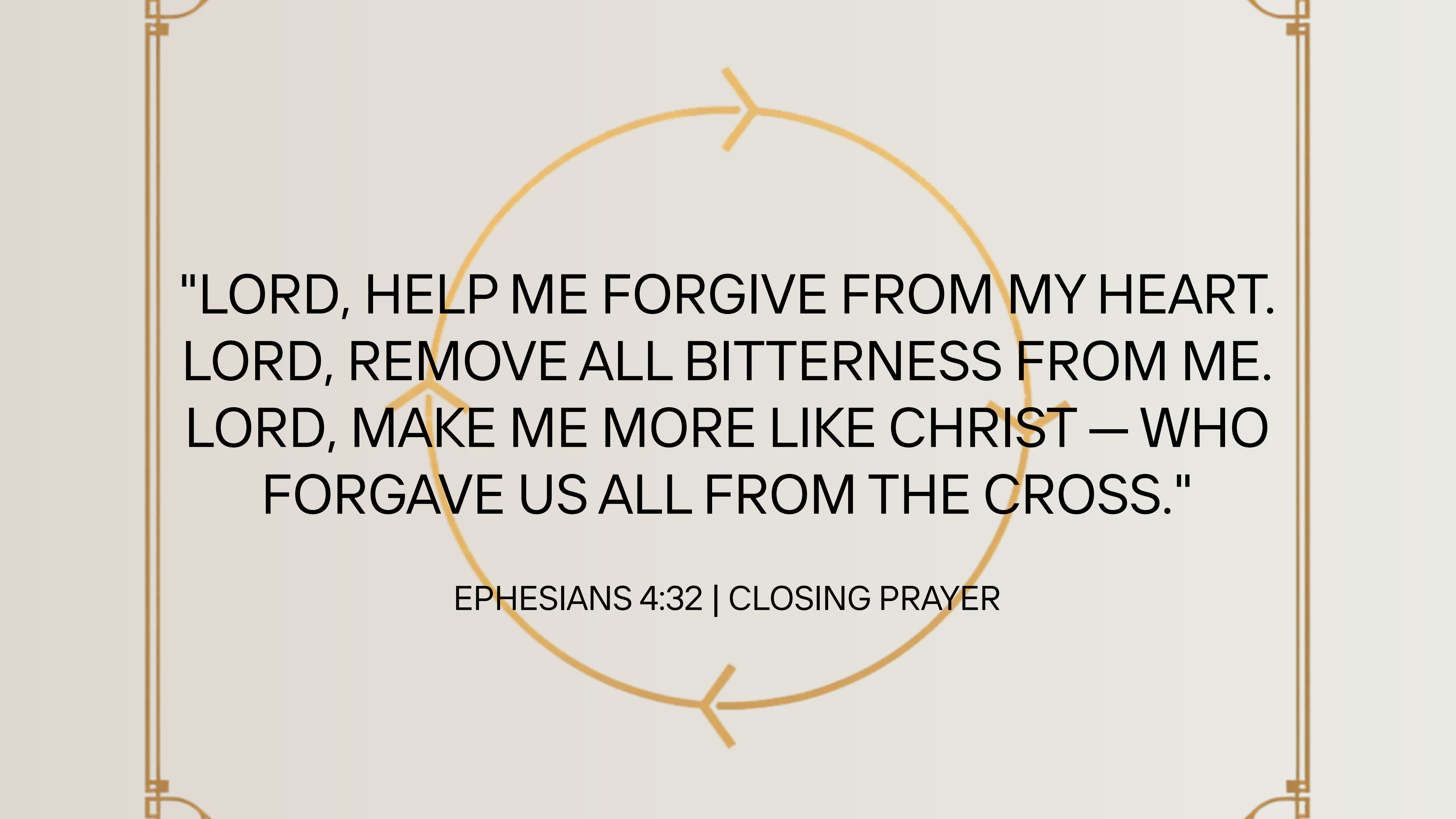
God's forgiveness through Christ is the foundation — our forgiveness of others flows from His mercy and grace toward us.

FROM THE HEART

Forgiveness is God's command and must come sincerely from the heart, not merely spoken words.
Matthew 18:35

JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus forgave while suffering on the cross — He is our perfect case study and the source of our strength to forgive.



"LORD, HELP ME FORGIVE FROM MY HEART.
LORD, REMOVE ALL BITTERNESS FROM ME.
LORD, MAKE ME MORE LIKE CHRIST — WHO
FORGAVE US ALL FROM THE CROSS."

EPHESIANS 4:32 | CLOSING PRAYER