

# The POWER of FORGIVENESS—Lesson Nine

Springfield Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Kevin D. Sturdivant, Pastor

---

The ultimate goal of all forgiveness is reconciliation. Remember forgiveness and reconciliation are \_\_\_\_\_. Offense is hurt brought on by a perceived insult. Forgiveness is the releasing of a debt. Reconciliation takes two parties. Reconciliation is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Reconciliation is like the Hebrew word shalom. Reconciliation is always the goal, but it is not always possible. Let's examine some times when reconciliation may not be possible or wise.

- Reconciliation is not wise if \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. When one person wants to reconcile and the other does not, it creates an imbalance in the relationship that can lead to one person being abused and misused. Examine: Matthew 10:14.
- Reconciliation is not possible if \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. You can forgive the person, but you cannot restore the relationship. In our last lesson, we talked about having difficult conversations. In this case, you can't speak to them but you can write them a letter and release your feelings to deal with your part of the situation. Examine: Deuteronomy 18:10-11.
- Reconciliation is no wise if \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. If you have forgiven someone and they are not demonstrating changed behavior, restoration of the relationship may not be possible. Examine: Matthew 18:21-22. What is the subject of the conversation? \_\_\_\_\_. In order to restore relationship, especially when the breach was intentional, something must be different for us to come back together. Repentance means I must turn and go in the other direction.

There is a wonderful case study in scripture that highlights some of the things we've examined during this series. The history of offense between these two characters is long and storied and spans several chapters in scripture. Let's look at the life of Jacob and Esau.

# The POWER of FORGIVENESS—Lesson Nine

## CONTINUED

Jacob's first offense against Esau. Examine: Genesis 25:19-34. There is a breach between these two brothers. The breach opened because Jacob took Esau's birthright. The birthright mean Jacob would inherit the larger portion of the family's resources. But it also meant that Jacob be designated as the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. But if that's not enough, let's examine Jacob's second offense against his brother Esau. Examine: Genesis 27:1-36. Jacob steals Esau's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. The blessing was connected to the blessing of Abraham in Genesis 12. It was the privilege of having the Son of God come from your lineage. Those are the breaches, let's look at the reconciliation. Examine: Genesis 33:1-16. There is much to learn from the reconciliation of these two brothers.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 32:9-12) Jacob prays that Esau would not kill him. Prayer is essential for forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Jacob has a desire to restore the relationship. (Genesis 32:3-5) Jacob does not yet know if his brother would like to restore the relationship, but Jacob is trying to do what's right.
- Jacob came into the situation with the right heart and the right attitude. (Genesis 33:3) Jacob \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Jacob humbled himself.
- Reconciliation shows in their embrace. (Genesis 33:4)
- Jacob adds a different level to reconciliation. Jacob adds \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 33:8) Restitution is attempting to restore what was damaged or destroyed and seeking justice wherever able. There are times when you have done wrong, where you should attempt to restore what you have taken. Remember when you forgive, you release the person of the debt; however, if the person seeks to restore through restoration you can accept it  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

God gives us a heavy mandate to the ministry of reconciliation. Examine: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. Even if someone cannot reconcile with you, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.