

Forgiveness and Forget

Forgive and forget. That's what they say. When someone wrongs you just forget it ever happened. Can anyone really do that? Sure the guy who takes the parking spot you are waiting for or the person with 12 items in the express check out lane, we can forget that. Those are not the issues that are hard to forgive. The people who are hard to forgive are the people who have wounded us deeply. Do we really expect a child who was beaten by the father to just forget the abuse the endured? Forgetting has nothing to do with forgiveness.

If you forget it's not forgiveness, it's amnesia. There is no love in forgetting. Forgiveness is about knowing that you have been wronged and choosing not to hold that against the person. God doesn't forget. He doesn't erase your sin from His mind. If God could forget our sin there would have been no need for the cross. He could have just waited until we died and then forgotten all our sin. It's not like if you sin on Friday and then ask God for forgiveness on Saturday that God is surprised like "WHHHATTT? You sinned? Woah...I had no idea."

God doesn't forget. God can't forget. God knows everything. Now in Isaiah and in Hebrews God says He will not remember our sins. Forgetting and not remembering are not the same. When you forget something, you have memory of it. To remember is to think of it again. Not remembering is choosing not to think on something again. It's letting it go. In the Bible the word remember isn't about knowing or not knowing. It is a call to action. When Israel cries out to God pleading with Him to remember they are asking Him to act on His promise.

God does not forget your sin. He chooses not to remember it. He chooses not to act on your sin. God is all knowing. He doesn't forget your sin because He can't forget your sin. If He could we wouldn't need Jesus. Jesus died for our sin so that God wouldn't have to remember it. God demonstrates His love for us by knowing our sin and choosing not to hold that sin against us. We don't forgive and forget. We forgive.

When you forgive without forgetting but without bringing it back up, holding on to the hurt, or using it against them you are acting in love treating the person who hurt

you as more important than the pain they caused. Very few things are more effective in demonstrating love than offering forgiveness.

Verses

Jeremiah 31:34

Hebrews 8:12

Hebrews 10:17

Philippians 3:13

Ephesians 4:31-32

Isaiah 43:25