

## The Power of Forgiveness

**Jeremiah 31:34 (NLT) - And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."**  
*Giving Honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Big Bethel Nation. Let's turn to Jeremiah 31-34 (NLT) as we lift up the Name of the Lord. The sermon topic is "The Power of Forgiveness."*

### God Forgives our Past

Have you ever made a mistake? Have you ever treated someone less than amicable or said some things that proved to be unbecoming of you as a Christian? If the answer to all of those questions are a resounding "Yes" then you are only human. As humans and imperfect beings, we all desire and have a tremendous need to be forgiven. There is a great power in forgiveness. God is our example and He is a great forgiver and forgetter. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God said "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." God forgives our past so we can reclaim our hope, dreams, and bright future. There is power in your forgiveness.

### Jesus is our model

Jesus Christ is our model and, in an effort to be like Jesus we must embrace the power to forgive and forget. Oftentimes people will say "I forgive but I will never forget." They are trying to forgive, but they have conditions and limitations. This doesn't work and oftentimes causes anxiety, stress, pain, and resentment while holding on to a dark past of deep hurt and disappointment. God does not treat us this way. In fact, He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him. (Psalms 103:10-11) There is power in your forgiveness.

### The Lord removes our Sin

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) Sin is truly a universal problem. God has the power to remove it. Through His love He does the miraculous. Psalm 103:12-14 says "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a Father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust. These verses compare God's removal of our sins to the distance between east and west, implying that He has completely erased them from us. My brothers and sisters, there is a powerful message of forgiveness and grace that the Lord shares with us all. When we read that "as far as the east is from the west," it makes us realize just how immense and complete God's forgiveness truly is. Unlike geographical locations, which have clear boundaries, east and west never meet. Think about that for just a moment. This vast separation helps us understand that our wrongdoings are removed from us to such an extent that they become untraceable. It helps us visualize the freshness and newness of life that comes from God, enabling us to start anew without the burden of our past mistakes. There is power in your forgiveness.

In closing, Jesus forgave all of our sins. Because our sins were not based on knowledge but on error, Jesus could not only say, "Father forgive them," but "Father, forgive them,

because they don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) Oftentimes others may not understand the impact of their errors on the lives of others. In your life, when you have made mistakes, did you truly understand that you were impacting others? Or how your shortcomings, sins, or mistakes negatively impacted the condition of other people? Thank God for forgiveness. Forgiveness allowed you and I the opportunity to be free and to start with a fresh, clean slate. Hallelujah, Somebody. The same way the Lord Jesus has forgiven you and has forgotten your sins... You have the power to forgive, forget, set others free, and to move forward toward the hope of a bright future in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let them go. Let them go – forgive and forget. Not only will forgiveness set others free, but it will set you free as well. Romans 10:17 says "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." As you exercise your faith in the Lord it will continue to grow. There is power in your forgiveness. Didn't the Lord wake you up this morning? Didn't the Lord make a way for you? Isn't the Lord always on time? When I think about the Goodness of Jesus and All that He's done for me and for you. My soul shouts Hallelujah. Thank You for Saving Us. I remind you that the Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the Word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:8b-11) There is power in your forgiveness. Hallelujah, Amen.