

Escaping the Trap

- ✓ Forgiveness is how we **escape** the trap.

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT) Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

- ✓ Forgiveness has no **limits**.

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

- ✓ Forgiveness is a **gift** you give yourself.

How Forgiveness Unlocks Freedom

1. Forgiveness is **freedom**.

Matthew 18:34-35 (AMPC) And in wrath his master turned him over to the torturers (the jailers), till he should pay all that he owed. ³⁵ So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart *his offenses*.

- ✓ Forgiveness releases **YOU** first.

2. Forgiveness is not **denial**.

- ✓ Forgiveness doesn't **excuse** the offense – it releases your future.

Matthew 6:14 (NLT) If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

3. You can't be free from what you're **holding on to**.

- ✓ The offense may have hurt you once, but holding onto it hurts you **every day**.

Matthew 18:8 (NIV) If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

4. Forgiveness is intended to **save** our life.

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

✓ Forgiveness is life support for the **soul**.