



Freedom
from
the Religious
Spirit

Part Four:
Forgiveness:
Receive it so
you can give it

**43 “You have heard that it was said,
‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
and hate your enemy.’**

Matthew 5:43–45

44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 *so that you may be sons of
your Father who is in heaven; for*
He causes His sun to rise *on the evil*
and the good, and sends rain *on the*
righteous and the unrighteous.

The religious spirit is the mother of all strongholds because it claims to know God and His ways better than God Himself.

In Heaven's economy, Mercy triumphs over judgment.

This makes no sense to one who has been eating from the tree of religion.

37 And He said to him, “ ‘You
SHALL *LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD*
WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH
ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH *ALL*
YOUR MIND.’

Matthew 22:37–40

**38 “This is the great and foremost
commandment.**

39 “The second is like it, ‘You
SHALL ***LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS***
YOURSELF.’

40 **“On these two commandments**
depend the whole Law and the
Prophets.”

Whatever part of our
heart, soul or mind is
wrappped up in offense
is now unavailable for
love.

Our capacity for love
is limited to the amount
of love we are willing to
receive from God.

**19 We love, because He first loved
us.**

1 John 4:19

If we struggle to receive
God's forgiveness, we
will struggle to extend
forgiveness to others.

Forgiveness is not
something that we do,
but a natural and
expected outcome of
what we have been given.

**1 How blessed is he whose
transgression is forgiven, Whose sin
is covered!**

Psalm 32:1–7

2 How blessed is the man to whom
the LORD does not impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no
deceit!

3 When I kept silent *about my sin*,
my body wasted away Through my
groaning all day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I did not hide; I said,
“I will confess my transgressions to
the LORD”; And *You forgave the
guilt of my sin*. Selah.

6 Therefore, let everyone who is
godly pray to You in a time when
You may be found; Surely in a flood
of great waters they will not reach
him.

7 *You are my hiding place*; You
preserve me from trouble; You
surround me with songs of
deliverance. Selah.

Confessing our sin opens
the door to the freedom
found in His forgiveness.

When we reject God's
forgiveness, we partner
with the religious spirit to
punish ourselves.

Believing that it is always
God's desire to forgive
us requires faith. This is
the entire point of the
New Covenant.

Confessing our need for forgiveness is how we receive freedom from our own sins. Forgiving others is how we get free from their sins.

47 “For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for *she loved much*; but *he who is forgiven little, loves little.*”

Luke 7:47–50

48 Then He said to her, “***Your sins
have been forgiven...***”

50 And He said to the woman,
“***Your faith has saved you***; go in
peace.”

The more we receive
God's forgiveness, the
more we will extend
love in response to it.

The root of all
offense is unmet
expectations.

The ultimate end of
carrying offense is
that we become
offended with God.

21 He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. ***Blessed be the name of the LORD.***”

Job 1:21–22

22 Through all this Job did not sin
nor did he blame God.

"Forgiving God" is when we
release God from our
unmet expectations and trust
that He IS love, that He is
always **FOR** us, never
AGAINST us.

Forgiving God also happens
when we trust in the justice
of God, and joins God's
heart in longing to extend
mercy.

2 He prayed to the LORD and said,
“Please LORD, was not this what I
said while I was still in my own
country? Therefore *in order to
forestall this* I fled to Tarshish,

Jonah 4:2

for I knew that *You are a gracious
and compassionate God, slow to
anger and abundant in
lovingkindness, and one who
relents concerning calamity.*