



## **Beyond the Sermon**

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Defeating the Enemy Through Forgiveness (Reversing the Devil's Decisions pt 6)

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

### **Message Theme**

The Power of Forgiveness Helps to Win From Within

### **Prayer Focus**

God, I don't want to get distracted by the enemy. Help me stay focused on you and you only. I want to keep my eyes focused on your plan for my life. God you alone are worthy of my attention. God, forgive me for putting others things first in my life above you and continue to show me how to walk with you .

### **Key Truths**

The enemy is our accuser, seeking any means to disrupt and distract us. He aims to isolate us, divert our focus, and lead us astray. We must resist the enemy's schemes, for losing our vision and sense of direction can tempt us to revert to our past instead of moving forward. While we shouldn't fixate on the enemy, knowing his motives and tactics is key to standing firm against him.

Our connection with God surpasses any tie from our past. God isn't looking at the decisions we've made; He sees us through the lens of who He called us to be. When God looks at us, He sees the righteousness of Christ, just as He sees His own Son. Jesus paid for our sins in full, and it's up to us to believe and receive this precious gift.

Satan often tries to anchor us in our past, but we cannot gain momentum by dwelling on our past. We need to forgive those who have wronged us, and we must also forgive ourselves. The Bible provides a powerful example of prayer, emphasizing the importance of forgiveness. Jesus teaches us to forgive and pray for those who have hurt us. Seeking vengeance keeps us in a cycle of hatred and discomfort, but forgiveness breaks that cycle. Forgiveness is not a feeling; it's a decision. By choosing to forgive and praying for others daily, the feelings of forgiveness will follow.

### **Practical Application**

Regardless of how long we've known God, how much we understand about Him, or the depth of our relationship with Him, there's always more to learn. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Has someone intentionally or unintentionally broken your trust? God forgives us every time we ask. It's our

responsibility to follow His example and forgive others.

Steps to Forgiveness:

1. Forgive.
2. Pray for them.
3. Repeat as necessary.

## Reference Verses

- 1 Peter 5:8
- Philippians 3:13
- Hebrews 12:1, 8:12
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, 5:21
- Ephesians 1:7, 4:26-27
- Micah 7:19
- Romans 3:25, 12:17-21
- Matthew 6:9-13, 18:21-35
- Mark 11:25
- Acts 7:59-60

## Declarations

- I will resist the enemy's distractions and keep my focus on God's plan for my life.
- The Lord has freely forgiven me, and I will forgive and pray for those who hurt me.
- I trust God's vision for my life and will move forward with faith, leaving my past behind.

## What's Next?

In this week's message, we learned about the importance of resisting the devil and embracing forgiveness to stay aligned with God's plan for our lives. The enemy often tries to derail us by focusing our attention on past mistakes and failures, but through faith and forgiveness, we can overcome his schemes and live in the abundance that God promises. Here are some steps to help you apply these principles:

- **Stay Vigilant and Resist:** Be aware of the enemy's schemes and stand firm in your faith. Pray daily for strength and wisdom to recognize and resist the devil's attempts to bring you down. Whenever you feel weighed down by guilt or regret, remind yourself that these thoughts are from the enemy, not from God.
- **Focus on the Future, Not the Past:** Don't let past failures or mistakes hold you back from the future God has planned for you. Write down a vision for your future that aligns with God's promises, and focus on it whenever the enemy tries to remind you of your past.
- **Keep Your Heart Pure:** Ensure your heart remains fertile ground for God's Word by not allowing unforgiveness to take root. Forgive those who have wronged you, just as Jesus forgave. Regularly check your heart for any signs of bitterness or resentment. If you find any, pray for God's help to let it go.

Ask God for the strength to resist the devil and stand firm in faith. Pray for a heart that forgives quickly and completely, just as Jesus did. Finally, request God's help in focusing on the future He has for you, rather than dwelling on the past.

**If you're in need of prayer** we have a team ready to pray with you. Click the prayer link below to connect with us.

[http://weblink.donorperfect.com/WBF\\_Prayer](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/WBF_Prayer)

## Scripture References

### Defeating the Enemy Through Forgiveness

**John 10:9-11 NKJV** I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

**Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**JOHN 10:10 TNT** The thief cometh not but to steal and to kill and to destroy.

**1 Peter 5:8 NKJV** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV** "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

**Revelation 20:10 NKJV** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Hebrews 8:12 NKJV** "...and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

**Micah 7:19 NKJV** You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.

**Romans 3:25 NKJV** ...whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith...

**Matthew 12:33 NKJV** "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad..."

**Mark 4 NKJV REF**

**Mark 11:25-26 NKJV** “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him...

**Ephesians 4:26-32 NKJV** “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

**Acts 7:60 KJV** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Romans 12:17-18 NKJV** Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

**Psalms 110:6 KJV** ...he shall fill the places with the dead bodies...

**Acts 12 REF**

**Matthew 12:33 NKJV** “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad...”

**Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV** Go therefore and make disciples...