

Joy Without Limits :
The Joy of Forgiveness
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Text : Psalm 32

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” The Bible has a lot to say about relationships. One specific thing that we should study more often is the subject of forgiving others. Everyone has been hurt. And everyone has probably hurt someone else. We need to learn to be more forgiving of one another. Let’s look at one of the great psalms of David and see what we can learn about forgiveness. . . .

Discussion:

I. Sin Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. What had God done for David? (vs.1-2)
- B. What had David done against God? (vs.3-7)
- C. What had David decided to change? (vs.8-11)
- Notice **Psalm 65:3, Psalm 86:5**

II. Conflict Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. We can choose ignorance (**Judges 17:6, Romans 3:9-26**).
- B. We can choose bitterness (**Ephesians 4:31-32, Hebrews 10:30, Hebrews 12:14-15**).
- C. We can choose forgiveness (**Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 3:12-13**).
- D. We can choose repentance (**Matthew 18:21-35, Isaiah 1:18, Ezekiel 36:25, I John 1:8-9**).

III. Mercy Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. Rediscover the person’s humanity (**Romans 3:9-26**).
- B. Surrender the desire for vengeance (**Hebrews 10:19-39**).
- C. Empower others with your great example (**Luke 5:17-26**).

IV. Change Will Affect Our Relationships

- A. Don’t forgive someone too quickly (**Matthew 18:21-35**).
- B. Don’t forgive someone too late (**Matthew 5:23-24**).
- C. Don’t forgive someone based on their repentance (**Luke 23:34**).
- D. Don’t forget that forgiveness is a process (**Matthew 6:14-15**).

Conclusion: Do you have trouble forgiving others? Do you need forgiveness from God? Do you need to receive prayer to encourage you to forgive yourself? Each child of God should drink from the well of joy!!! Are you ready to drink?