



# E.C.H.O. ~ Encouragement Can Help Others

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**"THEREFORE, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH . . . PLEASANT WORDS ARE LIKE A HONEYCOMB, SWEETNESS TO THE SOUL AND HEALTH TO THE BONES . . . FINALLY, ALL OF YOU BE OF ONE MIND, HAVING COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER; LOVE AS BROTHERS, BE TENDERHEARTED, BE COURTEOUS;"**

*GALATIANS 6:10; PROVERBS 16:24; 1 PETER 3:8*

## CONTENTS

- 1- Memory Verse
- 2- Words of Thought
- 3- Editor's Corner
- 4- Picture of the Day!
- 5- Devotional
- 6- Next Issue

Today, in reflection of our yesterday, with great hope for tomorrow, we remember our sunsets, looking contently confident towards the Sunrise. We remember those who have stood firm in the fight for our faith, hope, and freedom. We honor those who have gone before us, carrying the torch, which lights our way to truth, honor, and life. Pressing forward, sharing in the same excellence of the flame, passing the enkindling hope to the generations ahead, may we passionately be so bold, strong, and courageous that we may also stand firm with valor, compassion, and confidence in the contending hope which God has given us.

11 Sept 2002 - James Daniel McIntosh

All scripture references are from the New King James Version, unless otherwise specified.

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO

" . . . Revive me, O LORD, according to your word." (Psalm 119:107)

## 1 - MEMORY VERSE

**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

1 John 1:7

## 2 - WORDS of THOUGHT

### Are we WISE?

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." (1 Cor 3:18-20)

**Fool(ishness)** – absurdity/stupid/silliness

**Wise(dom)** – wise/intelligence

**Thoughts** – imagination/reasoning

**Futile (vain)** – empty/profitless

Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive. Pr 17:28

A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident. (Pr 14:16)

*Are we wise in our own eyes?*

*How does God view the knowledge we poses?*

**"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above,** not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."**

(Col 3:1-3)

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO

A couple years back the Lord dealt with me greatly on the issue of forgiveness. This is not an easy step to take, especially when (self) pride is blocking the way, but is necessary and required move to make if we wish to keep our relationship and fellowship with our God and Lord open and intimate.

As we seek to have a right relationship with God and to fellowship with HIM, then we must also remain clean and right in HIS sight. Of course we can only do this through Jesus Christ, but we also have our part in it too as we must claim God's victory, and set aside our own personal desires which are fed by the flesh.

Below is a draft on 7 R's TO FORGIVENESS, which the Spirit has influenced me to research.

Matthew 18 & Ephesians 4 are a few good chapter to read.....

*The 7 R's* are for both sides of the fence: 1)It's for those who have done wrong and need forgiveness; 2) It is also for those who have had wrong done to them and need to forgive.....

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## **7 R's TO FORGIVENESS**

*Forgiveness requires a humbled heart*

**"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Mt 18:4**

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9**

**R1) Recognize/Realize** - *Recognize the wrong committed (yours &/or theirs) while Realizing the need for forgiveness (both yours and theirs)*

We have a need to forgive just as much as they have a need to be forgiven, & Vice versa - we have a need to be forgiven as they have a need to forgive.

**R2) Repent/Remove** - *Repent of the wrong you have committed and Remove yourself from ever doing that again (also remove yourself from the anger or bitterness that can creep itself in from the wrong others have committed to you).*

If you have done wrong, then **repentance** is needed, and if you are the one who was wronged (if someone did something against or towards you in a wrong manner), then you need to **remove** yourself from allowing the flesh to control your thoughts and reactions. Don't give into anger, hate, and bitterness, holding a grudge and being unforgiving, rather remove yourself from that and allow God to forgive and love through you.

**R3) Replace/Reclaim** - *Replace the wrong with doing what is right and Reclaim victory you posses through the blood of Jesus Christ*

If you have done the wrong, **replace** it by not doing it anymore, and **reclaim** the victory we have through Jesus Christ who has already paid for our sins and forgiven us. And if you are the recipient of the wrong doings, **replace** it by not focusing on the negative, rather allow God's Holy Spirit to guide you through HIS Word.

**R4) Reconcile/Restore** - *Reconcile with the one (or ones) you have wronged and Restore the relationship through restitution*

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, ***forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.***

God wants us to have a right relationship with HIM, but if we are not striving to keep short accounts and doing what is right, then our fellowship becomes broken with HIM. We need to **reconcile** and work at **restoring** what we messed up (and that can only be done right as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us). And if we are the one who has been wronged, we need to forgive others to keep the fellowship strong and right with God.

And in some cases, due to death, separation (people moving, etc.) or other circumstances or events, the opportunity to personally reconcile (face-to-face) might never occur; however, that does not negate this step from needing to take place. If the situation does not allow personal interaction, not even through the means of a phone call or letter, we still must resolve in our minds and heart a forgiving attitude. Deal with it personally with the Lord and allow HIM to bring the refreshing freedom as we also ***reconcile and restore our relationship and fellowship with HIM.***

**R5) Return/Reestablish** - *Return to a right fellowship and walk with God as you Reestablish your path in God's Word*

**R6) Remain/Responsible** - *Remain constant and faithful abiding in God's Word living a Responsible life which brings God glory*

**R7) Rejoice/Rejoice** - *Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!*



Mt 18:18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

34-35 "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Lu 6:37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

John 20:23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.



*A few words on forgiveness by humans:*

"We frequently forgive those who bore us, but cannot forgive those whom we bore."

François Duc de La Rochefoucauld - Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims [1678], maxim 304

"To err is human, to forgive divine."

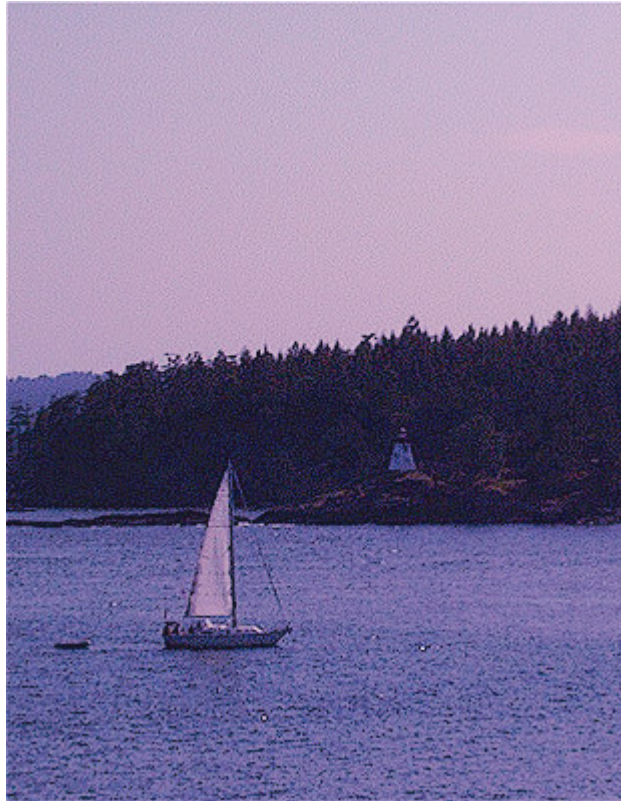
Alexander Pope - An Essay on Criticism [1711], pt. II, l. 325

"Only the brave know how to forgive. . . . A coward never forgave; it is not in his nature."

Laurence Sterne - Sermons, vol. I [1760], no. 12

Keep allowing God's Holy Spirit to guide and motivate you... not making room for the unforgiving, but allowing forgiveness & love to be dominating in your daily walk. Life is so much better when we do. Christ forgave some 2,000 years ago at the cross on Calvary, are we any better than HIM to not forgive? No. HE set the example we must follow, we must forgive, and we must forgive through the healing and cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ, our risen and ever living Lord and Savior!

**4 – PICTURE of the DAY!!!**



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# **FOLLOW**

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**and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.  
Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.**

**Mt 4:22; Mt 8:23**

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**Photo by Daniel McIntosh  
Canada, May 2004  
Barnabas Ministries (E.C.H.O.)**

Your comments, suggestions, ideas, and thoughts are welcomed.  
Do you have an image (*not copyrighted*) you would like to share with in E.C.H.O./PICTURE of the DAY!!!,  
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“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” *Hebrews 10:22*

**5 - DEVOTIONAL**

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*(1 John 1:7-10)*

Forgiveness has the impact and idea of putting something far away, leaving it, and letting it go. Forsaking it, and to never return to that item ever again. Treating the offender of that event or situation as though they had not committed the crime. Now don't get me wrong, this does not mean we can do something against another person, expect forgiveness, and move on in life as though nothing occurred. There are consequences for our wrongful actions and reactions. And we must live with that cost. But true forgiveness does not hold a grudge and does not keep reminding the offender of the fault they committed.

For example: We all have sinned. The penalty for sin is death - physical & spiritual death. But Christ paid the price for our sin, and forgave us. And when we believe on HIM, receive HIS gift, and “confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn 1:9)

We have forgiveness, but that doesn't remove the consequences of our sin. We still will die physically. Our bodies will go through various sicknesses, illness, diseases; it will decay and eventually cease to exist on this earth. Christ forgave us, and we no longer have to be separated from HIS presence, but that doesn't remove the effect of sin on our earthly body. Yet, God does not hold over our heads the sin and taunt us everyday – no, HE sees us through the blood of Christ as forgiven.

“As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12

Break down the word “forgive”, and you'll see two words: FOR GIVE

When we forgive someone, we must “GIVE” something. We give up our pride, our self, our personal attitude(s), and we cast it away. FOR (or FORE) means prior to, or previously accomplished. If we are to forgive someone, we must give before we give – that is, we must FOR GIVE so that we can give. Through godly forgiveness, we can then share in fellowship with others who have offended us, and again give of our self to that individual.

How is forgiveness granted to us?

**1- WE MUST FIRST SEE THE NEED IN OUR SELF.**

:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Sin is anything which is done wrong. It is an offence and a violation of the divine law accomplished through thought or actions. Sin is not just an “act” or action we commit, but sin is also involves thought. **Sin begins** in the heart and mind. If you hate someone, it's the same as murder (1 John

3:15 “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer . . .”), if you lust after a person, it’s as though you committed the act of adultery (Matthew 5:28 “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”)

Sin is conceived in the heart and mind, and is born in the action and deed. That’s why it is important to memorize and learn God’s Word....

Psalms 119:11 “**Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!**”

Colossians 3:2 “**Set your mind on things above,** not on things on the earth.”

Romans 8:7 “Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be..”

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 15:6 “that you may **with one mind and one mouth glorify the God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

And on goes the list..... doing a word study on the “**mind**” looks like an interesting research!

Romans 3:23 points out that we are ALL sinners. There is none righteous (Romans 3:10). Because of sin, we have been forbidden to enter heaven, for God cannot look upon sin and live with it. that is why He sent His Son to be sin for us and to pay the penalty through His death (Romans 6:23). If we cannot admit we are sinners, **we deceive ourselves, we make God a liar**, because He has said in the Bible that we all have sinned. The truth then is not in us, and God’s Word is truth, so then HIS Word is not in us.

It is so easy to see that all are born in sin. My wife & I have four children. Before each one could talk, walk, or even crawl, each one showed their true nature. Their sin nature was evident through their tempers and selfish desires. We all were born with sin in our life (Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Ps 51:5), and we must be willing to confess our sins.

## **2- WE MUST MAKE CONFESSION**

:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins. He came to earth as a baby, born in a human body (yet without sin), lived and breathed a normal life here on earth. He was crucified; he gave His blood, died, was buried and rose up from the grave three days later. **Through His unselfish gift of death we can have our sins forgiven and wiped away.** But we must believe that Christ died for us. We need to **Confess our sins** and admit our wrong before the LORD. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Confess** means to say the same thing in agreement with another, to admit or declare one's self guilty

of what one is accused of, to profess or declare openly.

Through confession, we openly and freely admit (declare) that we are sinners. We have done wrong, and broken God's laws. Confession is the first step to reuniting our fellowship and relationship with Him. And even after our conversion into HIS family as a child of God, we still will commit sins. Before or after salvation, sin is still wrong, and we are still at fault for committing those sins. After receiving the gift of salvation, to keep an open line of communication with our Heavenly Father, we need to confess our sins, to keep short accounts with Him. Through confessing them, He is faithful to forgive..... but don't stop there! Don't just be willing to confess.... but be willing to repent (turn away) from evil and sin.

Romans 6:1-2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

We must abide by God's Word and let it shine through our life and actions. When we stumble or fall, and being human it's not hard to do, we need to get back up, brush ourselves off through confession before the Lord, and continue walking in HIS light and Word.

Without God and His plan we would all be lost and doomed to an eternity in Hell. God so graciously and lovingly made a way for us to be reunited with Him.... and through that we are able to have fellowship and a personal relationship with our Lord! Isn't it wonderful to know that He loves us so much! I am thankful that He has forgiven me of my sins, and I am grateful to know that in my weakness He still loves me and allows me to come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ!

### **So... now what? I'm forgiven, what's next?**

Christ paid our penalty; God has forgiven us through Christ's sacrificial gift. We must walk and live in the light of God's Word!

:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

We need to have fellowship... with God, and with other believers. As Christ has forgiven us, we must also be able to forgive others.

MATT 6:12-15 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors... For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

MATT 18:21-22 "Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

"Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'" (*unconditional forgiveness*)

2 COR 2:10 "Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,"

In the past, I was deeply hurt by some dear Christian brothers. The circumstances or events do not need to be discussed. But in those circumstances I struggled with knowing/doing what God wanted me to do, and allowing my selfish pride to hold a grudge. And as I struggled over these events, the Holy Spirit clearly directed me to the truth of God's Word.... "Forgive them... let it go, and place it in the Lord's hands. It's in the past; your anger can do nothing to help. Forgive them, and let God deal with them in HIS own way and time."

That night I slept with peace and comfort. I had rest. My mind no longer raced with the events and circumstances. Instead of anger and frustration I felt peace and hope.

We must walk in the light... share the light, live the light, and represent the light. And the Question rises... how are you walking? Are you in the light? Remember the words of Matthew 5:14 - 16

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

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**"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.  
Cleanse your hands... and purify your hearts..." James 4:8**

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**6 – NEXT ISSUE**

*Invite a friend to join us with our next issue when we continue the journey on  
FELLOWSHIP in the book of 1 John and examine FORGIVENESS...*

**ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO**

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
Sincerely yours.*

*Daniel McIntosh  
Philippians 1:6*

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