

So you're learning that taking ACTION – *Practicing* what works is required. Good for you – Well over 90% of the population never quite gets that simple incontrovertible FACT – Just as “Faith without works is dead”, thinking, visualizing and feeling are all useful and important, but taking ACTION is the catalyst that enables miracles.

# *Forgiveness*

*What is THAT all about?*

Candidly, it is a most important activity which, when understood and applied, will “rock your world”.

Brief aside - I have absolutely no financial interest whatsoever in it, but Immaculee Ilibagiza's *Left to Tell* is possibly the purest conveyance of how liberating and life-transforming (and, yes– difficult) forgiveness can be. I sincerely recommend it without reservation. You do want to improve, to get better - right?

**There are some salient points about forgiveness that we absolutely must know and understand.**

By “must know and understand” I don't mean it would be a good idea if we had an inkling of the concept. I don't mean it would be helpful if we were exposed to the basics of the teaching. I mean, plainly and simply that our eternal state of being and existence (this is huge) is fully dependant on our level of understanding forgiveness and the then unfolding thoughts, behaviors and consequences. Do I have your attention?

Socrates and the Buddha taught the same thing as the Christ (Jesus of Nazareth), but it has been glossed over and mumbled over (and over and over) so often as to be diluted by constant use in its impact. The “Our Father” of Catholicism or “Lord's Prayer” has as part of the request, “Forgive us as we forgive others”... The teaching seems to be that *to the degree we forgive, we will be forgiven;*

presuming the answer to this prayer is, “Yes”. The good news is the answer to ALL prayers is a resounding YES! But that’s a topic for another time.

**Aside** time again – Forgiveness is of more value to the forgiver than to the forgiven. Much like prayer and worship, forgiveness is useful, but the object (person, group, etc.) of our forgiveness not only need not know that they are being forgiven, need not know the process or rationale for it... their knowledge of OUR Forgiveness is simply not what matters. Consciousness will be changed, but impacting *them* is not the point. The impact – change in your Universe if you will – will occur due to your (our) decision to forgive.

**Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds  
on the heel that has crushed it.**

**- Mark Twain**

Jesus the Christ taught, *as he was experiencing crucifixion*, WHY we should and can and ought to forgive. For the glaringly blatant and simple reason that, “They know not what they do.” Let those words ring in your ears, my sibling!

Grasp the concept and hold on for dear life. Christ was decidedly NOT asking or telling his Father – the Source of all that exists to “take it easy on them, because I’m trying to teach Christians that they should be nice to each other”.

He was NOT teaching it is OK to crucify the innocent – which He assuredly was. He was NOT just giving us a good example of ‘loving our enemies’; he was speaking to The Eternal - reasoning with the Ultimate Power and Judge, regarding the fate of His executioners.

He was teaching that the TRUTH calls for their forgiveness *precisely because they (actually) thought* that what they were doing was the best thing for them to be doing at the time and place of the deed(s). IF they had believed otherwise *they would have acted otherwise*. Obviously – they knew NOT what they were doing.

Forgiveness is HARD to learn and practice for us because of our conditioning. We have been taught by all sorts of authority figures that grudge holding is in our best interests, that we would be stupid to forgive someone who did us wrong, because then we would be susceptible to a repetition of the wrong.

This inaccurately presumes we have no ability to choose how to behave in the future – that we cannot learn from our errors - that we have no sense and will be so foolish as to allow wrongs to be perpetrated on us continually! You (and I ) are not so intellectually ill-equipped so as to continue to allow such.

We have seriously and sincerely misunderstood just what the heck forgiveness IS...

**“Forgiveness only has value when it is given away.”  
- Abraham Lincoln**

If you handed a seven month old two glass vials of virulent flesh-eating bacteria and e coli and left the room, ... You wouldn't DO that, would you? . . .

What – you think we know so much better than that baby what *we* should be doing, how we should be behaving, what words we should be saying, what actions we should be taking – 24/7 ?

Come ON, now, dear sibling – let's “get real”. The point to this is that your brothers and sisters (blood related or not) have about as much of a clue how to behave as the baby has about what to do with those test tubes.

Suffice it for here to say that at least part of the teachings of the Buddha were that all suffering comes from ignorance. Or, dare I paraphrase it: from *not knowing what to do*.

What Socrates taught was that people do what they think is good for them. They will NOT behave ANY other way.

Yes, they're obviously misinformed, confused or they've been *trained* to hate (which teaching existed on planet earth at the time this was first written).

People who do it (*in actuality, really*- at least at the moment) honestly and truthfully believe killing is good. – As Christ is recorded teaching His disciples in the Christian New Testament: “The time is coming when those who seek to kill you will think they do God service.”

So – The idea of *Forgiving* these frankly pitiful recipients of wrong conditioning (call them victims if you want) needs to be recontextualized from the current commonly held paradigm.

Forgiveness can be seen in a different context than viewing those who “wrong” us as diabolically evil plotters who KNOW they’re doing wrong and do it anyway for the express purpose of being mean to us.

What? You don’t buy the premise that they’re doing what they think is good for them – at the time and place and condition of *their mind*?

We’ve been taught (and evidence seems to suggest) that there are “BAD” people out there, that evil exists – and it certainly seems to... And – be certain – the writer suggests that if a crazed madman comes at you with a knife, gun or bomb intent on doing you bodily harm it would certainly seem reasonable and appropriate to do your best to put him out of his misery ASAP...

There is nothing here that gives evil a pass or condones ANY harm directed toward others... B U T – pause...

Would you *fault* the infant for dropping the vials?

Most likely we’ll need to reprocess the concept of “death” and get a handle on what that is or isn’t (more on that elsewhere)... But getting back to the topic at hand...**Recontextualize.**

So it becomes obvious that it is in everyone’s best interests that we all do everything we can to educate our fellow humans to the truth that doing GOOD, i.e. what is moral, kind, helpful, etc. is *in reality* what provides the good return we are all seeking. In other words, the actual, verified and verifiable, tested, ‘tried and true’ FACT is: What goes around comes around.

Whether understood in terms of karma or the idea that virtue is its own reward, we need to (by example, by formal education and whatever other means may be available to us) teach the ‘bad’ people to become ‘good’ ... help them understand and own the truth that doing harm to others will not only not help them in the long run, but also that activities that hurt others have cosmic consequences and repercussions that are decidedly not in the best interests of the evil deed doer...

..and *forgive.*

Because:

- 1) we have to (Newtonian physics) and
- 2) we understand that it is wise to do so (Quantum physics) and
- 3) we understand that ***by doing so we assure our own forgiveness***

..and unless we have never made an error – or participated in a mistake that could use correction, we *need* forgiveness in order to elevate our own consciousness to the level of happiness, joy, love and all the other ‘good’ nouns, adjectives and adverbs we want.

Understand that anyone who possesses this understanding (that good is more to be desired than evil, that life is better than death, that hope is better than apathy, that peace is superior to conflict and strife, etc.) will as a consequence, desire *and may attain* these ‘good’ things, states and conditions. Universal LAW is what it is. You choose your direction.

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Want to see Miracles in your life? Then you will. Ask and it will be given. If, when, and as - you believe. (According to your belief it will be done to you) ***And why would you not believe?*** You have a mind and you can learn. And you will be given all the guidance, direction and aid that you will accept. You are loved. You are *so* loved.

Now, here’s hoping you will digest these ideas, and begin to practice and then accomplish the recontextualized thinking and consequential behavioral changes that will redound to *your* greater happiness, health, well-being, fulfillment, long life, prosperity and whatever miracles you want.

And, if I’ve been overly loquacious ..or even a bit verbose, you’ll forgive me.

*Thanks.*