

TRUE COLORS - Part 5
"Power of Forgiveness"
April 10, 2011

Memory Verse: James 1:2-3 *Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its **true colors**.* (Message)

REVIEW: When God is WITH you, then you can:

"Persevere Any Pit" – Gen. 37 (Sermon 3-13-11)

"Flee Any Temptation" – Gen. 39 (Sermon 3-20-11)

"Free Every Prisoner" – Gen. 39-40 (Sermon 3-27-11)

"Position Your Influence for the King" – Gen. 41 (4-3-11)

Today's MESSAGE: *When God is WITH you,*
You can live in the POWER OF FORGIVENESS!

TEXT: Genesis 42-50

- A. Reconciliation requires both parties being willing to rebuild trust. Trust is EARNED.
* Joseph tested his brothers – 42:15
- B. Reconciliation requires revealing the offense.
* Joseph wept – 45:4-5
- C. Reconciliation requires seeing God's perspective.
* Joseph states God's greater purpose – 45:6-7
- D. Reconciliation requires granting FORGIVENESS.
* Joseph hugged them and they talked – 45:15
- E. Reconciliation requires living in forgiveness.
* Joseph reassures brothers of forgiveness after their father dies, and promises provision – 50:21

Total Forgiveness is:

- A. Canceling the debt owed because of sin - Col. 2:13
- B. Required by God for Christian living –Mt. 18:35
- C. Freely given as we have received - Mt. 10:8
- D. Loving and blessing our enemies – Lk. 6:28-29
- E. Freedom from bitterness, resentment, etc. Heb. 12:15

First Friends Church
Total Forgiveness Prayers

1. Prayer of Forgiveness – Luke 23:34; Colossians 3:13

"Lord, I choose to forgive _____, as you have forgiven me. I choose not to blame, judge, or hold their actions against them. I hereby surrender the right to be paid back for my loss, and in doing so I declare my trust in God alone as the Righteous Judge."

2. Prayer of Sorrow - Isaiah 53:4-5; Mt. 11:28

"Lord, I bring my pain to the cross where you died to forgive sin AND to carry my sorrow. It is by your "stripes" I am healed. Today I receive my healing from this emotional wounding that enslaves me and I receive your perfect peace."

3. Prayer of Confession – (sinful response) Heb. 12:15; 1 Jn. 1:9

"Search me Oh God and know my heart. See if there is any offensive way in me. (Ps. 139:23-24)
Lord, I confess my sinful response of _____ toward the one who has wounded me. I give you permission to take any 'root' of bitterness and resentment out of my life. I ask you to remove it, to heal me where I've been wounded and to forgive me where I have sinned. "

4. Prayer of Blessing - Luke 6:28-29

"Lord, I pray you bless _____ with whatever they need by your mercy and grace."

5. Prayer for Reconciliation (separate issue) Mt. 5:23-24

"Lord, reveal to me if there's anything I need to do to make restitution, or to pursue reconciliation. Give me the courage to take that step of obedience as you lead.
* Forgiveness can be granted alone, but reconciliation takes both parties being willing to rebuild trust.
* Reconciliation is NOT always possible.