



**Growth Ministries Inc.**

# **The Growth Journal Magazine**

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## **Forgive and Forget...**

**THE FIRST TO APOLOGIZE  
IS THE BRAVEST.  
THE FIRST TO FORGIVE  
IS THE STRONGEST.  
AND THE FIRST TO FORGET  
IS THE HAPPIEST...**

This is not a biblical phrase but actually holds a lot of wisdom. It suggests we do two things, 1) forgive someone and 2) forget the thing after we forgive them.

Forgiving someone is hard sometimes. The pain inflicted may run deep at times. And forgetting seems almost impossible. How do you delete a traumatic experience that carries so much pain from your brain? Most memories are permanent. That's just not how the brain works Lonnie!

This month some of our volunteers will share with you some tips, wisdom, and encouragement on forgiveness. I will drop this tidbit on you about **forgetting**. Even though we cannot literally erase a thought from our mind, one way of forgetting something is to stop bringing it up. When the bible says God forgets our transgressions, we know God is all knowing so it is not like He actually forgets what we did. But He chooses not to hold it against us. He does not keep throwing it in our face or complain about it to the angels in heaven every time He thinks about it. Instead, He chooses to think about how He can help us be better.

*Lonnie Johnson*

Executive Director of Growth Ministries

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**HOLDING ONTO  
ANGER IS LIKE  
DRINKING POISON  
AND EXPECTING  
THE OTHER  
PERSON TO DIE**

## The 12 Disciples of Jesus Christ – Thaddeus by Alywin Mitchell

We have been looking at the lives of Jesus' disciples over the last few months. We began with Peter, then James, John, Andrew, Judas Iscariot, Philip and Bartholomew. This month, we will be looking at the disciple Thaddeus.



In lists of the Twelve, he is called Thaddeus or Thaddaeus, a surname for the name Lebbaeus, which means “heart” or “courageous.” Jerome, a fourth-century Bible scholar, dubbed Thaddeus “Trinomious,” which means “the man with three names.” In Matthew and Mark, the apostle is listed as Thaddeus. Luke, however, replaces the name **Thaddeus** with “Judas son of James” in both Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13. And when the apostle John mentions Thaddeus, he calls him “Judas (not Iscariot)”. It means, “Jehovah leads.” Some Bible scholars suggest that **Judas** was likely the name given to Thaddeus at birth, while **Lebbaeus** and **Thaddeus** were nicknames. By the way, **Judas** was a popular name during New Testament times.

Very little is known of Thaddeus' early life, other than he probably was born and raised in the same area of Galilee as Jesus and the other disciples. One tradition has him born into a Jewish family in the town of Paneas. Another tradition says that his mother was a cousin of Mary, mother of Jesus, which would make him a blood relation to Jesus. But these are open for some heated discussion at times.

The only recorded words of Thaddeus are in John 14. Jesus and the twelve disciples were together in the Upper Room for the Last Supper. Jesus was talking to them about His approaching death. Thaddeus asked Jesus, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?” (NLT). This question showed us a few things about Thaddeus. Thaddeus was comfortable in his relationship with Jesus, enough to stop the Lord in the middle of his teaching to ask a question, and Thaddeus was curious to know why Jesus would reveal himself to the disciples but not to the whole world. This question confirmed that Thaddeus had a compassionate heart for the world. Because he wanted everyone to know Jesus.

We know Thaddeus, like the other disciples, left his previous life to follow and serve Jesus Christ faithfully, enduring hardship and persecution. He preached as a missionary following Jesus' resurrection.

Extrabiblical literature says that, after Pentecost, Thaddeus took the gospel message north, where he performed miracles, preached, and founded a church in Edessa, an area in modern Turkey. One tradition says that he was either clubbed or axed to death for his faith, and another that he was crucified.

Here we are again, and I cannot emphasize this enough. Even though the information about Thaddeus is very sparse, we can summarize that you don't have to be of great importance in the world to be used by the Lord. Again, we can be encouraged to serve quietly. Because our acts of worship and kindness are not meant to impress others. They are to honor the heart and character of God. The Lord God rewards us openly when we operate quietly on His behalf. So, from this day forward, we should ask the Lord to help us find ways to minister to others, that will bring them closer to Jesus, allowing us to give Him glory, honor and praise!

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." 1 Peter 5:10

## The Burden of Forgiveness by Arron Long

God Bless my Brother's and Sister's,



I wanted to share my thoughts on forgiveness since it is such a crucial part of your new life with God through Christ our Redeemer.

Forgiveness is a very heavy burden for most of us that are incarcerated. I will tell you that we all have to forgive or ask for forgiveness, or both. It is such a heavy burden, that in order for any movement forward in our new walk with the Lord, we, as His people, have to find a way to apply this action to all who we have hurt knowing that even if they accept it or not, that you are applying what is asked of us as God's Children and that is to ask for forgiveness. When we surrender ourselves to the Lord and receive the blood of Christ, and are reborn from our sins, we are asking God to forgive us for what we have done. We are asking that He give us the ultimate sacrifice of giving His only son's blood to wash us from the sins we have committed. If we are able to ask for forgiveness from the Lord, then we should be able to walk, as His child, to ask for forgiveness from the others you have caused any pain or have sinned against. I promise, if you have the right mindset of not expecting anything back from them, but for them to hear from a brand new reborn you, is asking for forgiveness.

Now, forgiving is almost as hard as asking for forgiveness. Forgiving is another action we have to do in order for us to grow in our new walk with Christ. The thing about forgiving is that it is for your growth because what you are doing is letting things go that have a dark and negative impact on you. I still battle with this to this day. This takes a ton of faith and strength. It takes you being humble and accepting that someone, or you, has caused a lot of harm whether emotionally, physically, or spiritually. I promise you though, once you start forgiving others you will start growing faster and become more confident in your new life and new walk. That's why asking for salvation is forming a new you, because the only way to recover the blood of Christ is asking for forgiveness. I remember the day, in the cell, when I surrendered all of my sins, myself, my future, my past, my family to God.... I felt liberated and became anew. Forgive and ask for forgiveness for it is written.

***For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.***

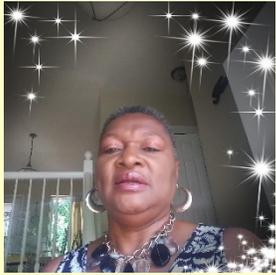
***Matthew 6:14***

***Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

***Colossians 3:13***

## The Cost of Not Forgiving by Lorri Trout

The Bible tells us in:



Colossians 3:13 - "bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive."

Ephesians 4: 32 - "Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted, (compassionate, understanding), forgiving one another (readily and freely), just as God in Christ also forgave you."

So, tell me why do we have such a hard time forgiving others that may have wronged, hurt, misused and even physically harmed you? I get it that it's a hard thing to do, but if God said in His Word to forgive just as He has forgiven you, then maybe you should look at this from a different point of view than the way you have thus far.

In the flesh and our natural man, you may feel that you are hurting that individual that hurt you or that you have the upper hand on that person by snubbing, gossiping and avoiding that person; but really my friend you are not. We tend to hold on to grudges from years ago; things that are so simple and frivolous. At the time, I get it that it seemed so big, and I am not belittling any situation you may have experienced because at the time it may have been traumatic. You are holding yourself prisoner to something that the other person has moved on from and probably has even forgotten. You can approach that person and ask them to forgive you for your part of whatever had taken place, only if it does not cause harm to you or cause harm to the other person. You have to take ownership in this as well and repent for your portion of wrong if that be the case. If there was no wrong on your part, you should still repent and ask God to forgive you for holding a grudge and unforgiveness in your heart towards the individual or individuals. Trust me when you own up to your wrong, God honors that. Then when you honestly and truly forgive the other party for their wrong to you; whether face to face or in prayer, you will feel such a release in the Spirit.

## The Cost of Not Forgiving Continued

You will be free and He whom the Son has set free is free indeed. There is nothing like being free of guilt, anger, shame, hatred, bitterness and malice. It's like you are carrying a heavy suitcase loaded with a ton of bricks causing you pain. You are weighed down, broken down, bent over and that's something you have the ability and control to change, which is, you are not carrying that weight of sin any more.

Galatians 5:1 says, "Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you." This is exactly what you have allowed the enemy/devil to do to you when you walk around with unforgiveness in your heart. You are a slave to that sin of unforgiveness, hatred, malice, anger. All these feelings bring along with them other sins that continue to grow deeper within your Spirit if you don't release that unforgiveness. These things all begin with a root of bitterness and just continue to spread like octopus tentacles throughout your life, spiritually and physically. You wonder why you are not moving forward or growing in your walk with Christ. Is it because of something you have tucked away in your heart that you just can't seem to let go?

Give it up and let it go. Be free and you will feel so much better about yourself and life. Pray for that person that wronged you and pray that God will touch their heart. Please don't forget to ask God to touch you as well and wash you clean of any hatred you may carry. There is nothing you can do to fix or change that person; no matter how much you would like to see that individual in pain. It's just this simple: Let God take the reins and He will take care of your enemies. You be free and let God do the rest. I did and I thank God that I am FREE and there is NO Turning Back. It's ok, you can love from afar, you don't have to be BFF (best friends forever); but just Let Go and Let God. I promise you; everything will be alright!



EyeOpenerQuotes.com

**Forgiving  
someone may  
cost you your  
pride, but not  
forgiving  
them will cost  
you your  
freedom.**

EyeOpenerQuotes.com

## Achieving Forgiveness by Annie

Forgiveness is something that benefits you more than the person you forgive. When you hold on to unforgiveness, you have turmoil inside. It affects every part of your life. For example, you might become angry for no reason. It might even affect your health.

So, we can safely say we should forgive, but how?

The first step in forgiveness is to sincerely ask God to help you to forgive the person.

The next step is being willing to forgive. Sounds easy, right? It's not easy but it IS powerful, and you can do it.

You have to determine in your heart, "I will forgive so and so for what they've done."

You might have to do this many times. Every time something comes up to bring back the hurt, resentment, or bitterness, decide--once again--to forgive.

Release it. This more than likely will be a process. The deeper the hurt or offense, the longer the process may take. Don't be embarrassed if it does take some time. The most important thing is to be willing to forgive.

This might be a foreign concept to some of you. Some people just tend to forgive more easily than others.

Then there's the fact that some hurts are deeper than others. For example, not getting invited to a party is on a whole different level than being abused.

They both involve getting hurt and require forgiveness but one might take more time and determination to forgive.

So, how will you know you have truly forgiven?

Think of the person who you feel has wronged you. What kind of emotions does this bring up? This helps you determine if you have forgiven that person or not.

I've heard people say if you have truly forgiven you've forgotten. I do not agree with this. I do not think we can ever totally forget something that has really wounded or hurt us. Those emotions run deep.

## Achieving Forgiveness Continued

However, you can forget to the point where you don't think of the hurtful thing they did every time you think of that person. You can forgive to the point that you are indifferent to them, not caring one way or the other about them.

You may never have intimate interaction or fellowship with the person again, and that's okay. Sometimes you should not.

Boundaries are healthy. Forgiveness does not mean you have no boundaries. Nor does it mean you have to embrace that person into your personal life again.

But you can get to the point where you have no feelings one way or the other. You can remember the incident without all the anger and emotions roiling inside.

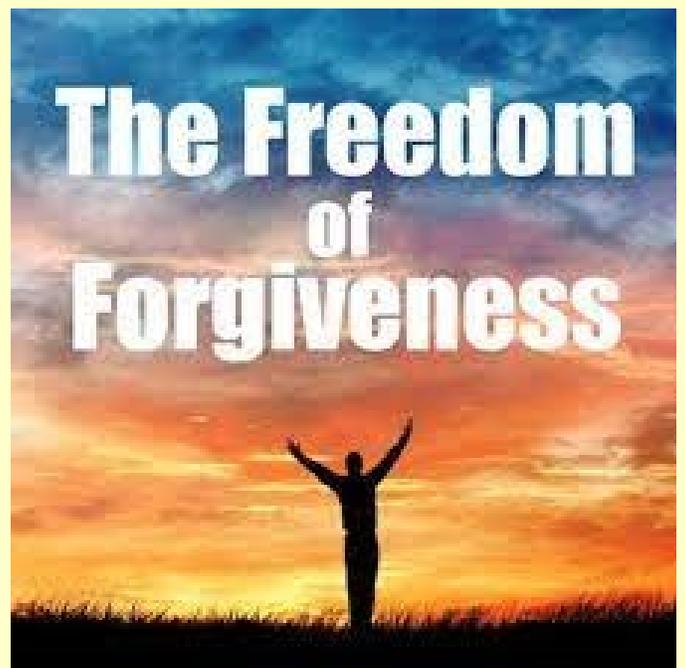
That's also not to say there will never be triggers. Depending on what has happened, there certainly might be triggers.

However, if you do constantly think of what they have done to you and feel resentful or bitter anytime you see them or talk to them or they to you or can't stand the sight of them, then you haven't truly forgiven them.

I want to stress again that forgiving someone does not mean you condone what they did. It simply means you are ready to be released from the hold of bitterness and anger.

Forgiveness can have many layers. But hopefully this gave you a basis to start the process of forgiving.

Remember, forgiveness frees you and benefits you.



## Ungodly Boss by Robin Lynes



Eight (8) years ago, I took a leap of faith and moved to Olathe, KS from Wichita, KS where I was raised and had support from family and friends, to a place where I knew two (2) people, aside from my immediate family, who were rarely available. I moved my children, husband and household for a job in the area. The career opportunity I was so excited to tackle, quickly became a bad working

environment.

The department was small and unorganized, compared to my previous work experience. The supervisor was new and lacked knowledge of processes, procedures and technology needed to be able to provide adequate training. In the short time I was with the organization, over half of the staff in the division my department was under turned over. Upper management's approach to maintaining control was micromanagement which had a trickle-down effect.

I ended up needing a medical procedure that required my absence from work for up to eight (8) weeks. Due to the stress and poor working environment, I chose to have the procedure done between Thanksgiving and Christmas, ensuring I would be off during the holidays. In retaliation for scheduling the procedure over the holidays, my supervisor waited until just before my leave to give me the worst job evaluation I had ever received, falsifying information, and letting me know upon my return, I would be put on a performance improvement plan.

I was in shock and devastated. I didn't have time to gather information to refute the information that was falsified prior to my leave. While on leave, I prayed a lot about the situation and tried to find another job. God wasn't done with me yet in that position. I went back to work part-time six (6) weeks after my procedure, full-time after eight (8) weeks.

Shortly after my return, I was put under a performance improvement plan. I made it my goal to accomplish every task put in front of me in the timeframe established, no matter how outrageous the request was. I also made it a goal of mine to go into work with a positive attitude and act like everything was wonderful. It was amusing watching my bosses' reaction to my positive attitude. I endured the storm of constant struggle, lack of support and knowing I had a target on my back for eight (8) months. I prayed daily GOD would give me strength to make it through the next day both mentally and physically.

GOD carried me through the challenging experience. HE always put people in my life who spoke into me with words of encouragement and gave me ideas of how to tackle the next challenge thrown at me. HE also gave me the strength to behave gracefully in the work environment, even though, inside I was scared and an emotional mess.

I felt betrayed and offended by the behaviors my boss and their boss exhibited. It is easy to hold grudges against those who we feel have wronged or offended us, whether the person is a boss, friend or family member. The task of forgiveness is not easy.

Matthew 18:21-22 - "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven, but seventy times seven times'".

Over the years, I have listened to multiple sermons and words of wisdom regarding forgiveness. There have been multiple times I have lifted up my old bosses' name and asked GOD to help me forgive.

Ephesians 1:7-8 - "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence."

GOD uses grace to forgive us when we sin against him. HE also gives us grace to forgive others as we carry out our journey and purpose in life. As a reward for being obedient and asking for a heart of forgiveness with this situation, years later, GOD showed me how quickly the tables can change. The ungodly boss, in the position of power, was stripped of power, and found themselves in a position where they needed to request my assistance. I am not suggesting GOD will always give you a gift such as this, but it is important to know HE is working things behind the scenes that none of us can possibly know.

I pray if you are holding onto grudges or offenses from the past, you pray to GOD for a heart of forgiveness. The people you hold grudges against are holding power over you even though the offense was committed in the past and is over. Forgiveness provides peace for mind for the offended, not the offender. GOD bless and keep you safe.



*"GOD USES GRACE TO FORGIVE US WHEN WE SIN AGAINST HIM. HE ALSO GIVES US GRACE TO FORGIVE OTHERS AS WE CARRY OUT OUR JOURNEY AND PURPOSE IN LIFE."*

## The Importance of Forgiveness by Paul Spencer

### What Is Forgiveness and Why Is It Important?

The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness. The words forgive, forgiven or forgiveness are mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. I have heard it said that if God repeats Himself, He has something that is vital for us to pay attention to. Since forgiveness is mentioned over 100 times in scripture, we should listen and take heed, because God is telling us something that is beneficial to our well-being. Throughout scripture, forgiveness has been practiced. For example:

- In Genesis 50, Joseph forgave his brothers betrayal when they sold him into slavery.
- In Numbers 14, Moses pleaded with God to forgive the people who rebelled against God's command to possess the promised land.
- In Psalms 51, David sought the Lord for forgiveness of personal failure when he caused Uriah's death to cover-up an affair, he had with his wife whom he impregnated.
- In 2 Chronicles 6, Solomon requested forgiveness for the Nation of Israel if/when they turned their back on God, during his prayer of dedication for the Temple.
- In Matthew 6, our Lord Jesus Christ taught, in his model prayer, that forgiveness should be a mainstay in our prayer life. He taught that we should ask God to "forgive our debts as we have forgiven our debtors."

Those scriptures reveal that forgiveness should be utilized during betrayal, intercession on behalf of the sins of others, personal failure, national rebellion and in our prayers to God. In fact, forgiveness is necessary for all occasions where people are involved. Therefore, what happens when we forgive? Let's unpack the definition of forgiveness.

**Forgive means: I send away; I let go or away, release, and permit to depart.**

When God forgives us, He sends our sins away. **Psalm 103: 12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."** God separates us from our sins when He forgives us. He also let's go of the offense against Him and releases us from sin. Sin offends God, but He doesn't hold our sins against us when He forgives us. Notice the conversation Jesus had with the woman who was caught in adultery in **John 8: 10 – 11. Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."**

## The Importance of Forgiveness Continued

Jesus did not condemn her. Instead, he let go of sin's offense and released the woman from her sin. Not only did he refuse to condemn the woman, he freed her from sin's prison and allowed her to depart from bondage. He told the woman to **"go and sin no more."** He gave the woman permission to live a new life. Isn't it wonderful that God, in the riches of his grace, gives us the opportunity to flee from the entanglements of sin and live a new life? God gives us a second chance to live a new and better life when he forgives us. Praise the Lord! That's what God does for us.

Forgiveness offers another benefit for us. **Forgiveness empowers us.**

Let's revisit the definition of forgiveness.

Forgive: **1** send away; **2** let go or away, release, and permit to depart.

Notice the personal pronoun "I" in the definition. The beauty of forgiveness is that it empowers **the victim** to send away, let go and release, and depart from the entanglement of sin. I have heard it said that when we forgive others, we release the offender. Forgiveness can release the offender by giving him/her a second chance which is wonderful. However, forgiveness also releases us. Forgiveness releases us from hatred, prejudice, malice, and evil thoughts that result in evil actions. Forgiveness frees us to love which reflects the image of God. Forgiveness allows us to move on with our lives. Wouldn't forgiveness be wonderful thing for a person who was betrayed? What about a person who was abused and mistreated? Or, what about a person who was hurt deeply? Forgiveness will free the soul of the injured person from the bondage of hatred, prejudice and malice which is a cancer to our soul. Forgiveness will not guarantee that the perpetrator's actions will change the better. The perpetrator may remain evil. However, we can free our soul from the evil he perpetuates and move on with our life. God did not create us to hold grudges, harbor hatred and ill-will towards others. Forgiveness releases us from such bondage. We may have to cut ties with some people, but at least we won't hold grudges, harbor hatred and ill-will towards them. Forgiveness will allow us to **"love our enemies and do good to them"**, **Luke 6:27.**

In conclusion, God lets go, sends away, releases, and permits us to depart from sin when he forgives us. We empower ourselves to let go, send away, release and depart from the clutches of sin in our souls when we forgive others. Lewis B. Smedes said it best. "To forgive means to set a prisoner free, and discover that the prisoner was you.

## Words of Wisdom from Two of Our Volunteers

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. - Proverbs 10:12

Are you troubled by broken relationships or situations in or from your past? Do you or are you struggling with guilt or regret from unresolved conflict? God offers freedom from these types of vices.

One of the hardest things to do in life is to let go of bitter feelings towards others, ourselves, and possibly even God. When we have unresolved matters, it prevents us from grieving or forgiving properly which can lead to lack of control over self and other things. Why give your God given power to someone or something else to rule over YOU?

Forgiveness is the road that allows us to let go of that toxicity and take control and move according to God's word. For example - waste is not good for the body which is why we excrete it. If not released from the body, it can do harm to us causing sickness etc. Let go and let God!

God has designed us to be glorious, beautiful, and free from things that weigh us down. We can let go of resentment. It's a choice to hold on or be free from that thing that binds our heart in frustration or anger. God wants us to see each other in terms of grace (a gift) and mercy (something we don't deserve).

### CONCLUSION:

When Peter spoke of how many times to forgive someone Jesus said 70 times 7 (490) the catch - Jesus wasn't speaking on or towards a specific number but rather the magnitude of forgiveness in which we are to extend to our fellow man.

I leave you with this: Forgiveness, like God's love - has no end!

*Minister Terrance Saunders*



### Unforgiveness

Unforgiveness is not an option for anyone who wants to be counted in God's Kingdom. But before we can be released from the pain we feel against others, we must forgive ourselves. Even though our inner feelings are screaming we are not the cause of this pain, which may be true. However, God will not bless you until all parties involved have been forgiven. 1Peter: 1:2, And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

*Deborah Jackson*

## **Words to Grow By**

### **Better Days Are Coming!**

Every situation in life is temporary.  
So, when life is good,  
Make sure you enjoy and receive it fully.  
And when life is not so good,  
Remember it won't last forever  
And better days are on the way.  
Always remember that your present situation  
Is not your final destination.

### **Better Days Are Coming!**

Good things come to those who believe.  
Better things come to those who are patient.  
And...the best things come to those who  
Don't give up.

### **Better Days Are Coming!**

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## **Women Empowering Women**

### **Yes, You Can!**

It doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from.  
The ability to triumph, begins with you.

**ALWAYS!**

What you think, you become.  
What you feel, you attract.  
What you imagine, you create.

Be strong enough to stand alone,  
Smart enough to know when you need help,  
And brave enough to ask for it.

### **Yes, You Can!**

God always hears and...He answers!

### **Yes, He Will!**

*Isaiah 65:24*

# GMI Word Search - Forgiveness

O C U F O R G I V E N E S S C  
C M N L E N I E N C Y J R P L  
R E D P U R G A T I O N E A E  
E R E A S H A M E D T G P R M  
G C R S O R R O W F U L R D E  
R Y S D I S P E N S A T I O N  
E A T Z R E T E N T I V E N C  
T M A C Q U I T T A L B V R Y  
F N N D T O L E R A N C E J P  
U E D I N D U L G E N C E D I  
L S I E X O N E R A T I O N T  
V T N U A B S O L U T I O N Y  
P Y G Z L A P O L O G E T I C  
V I N D I C A T I O N X N U X  
C O N D O N R E M I S S I O N

Understanding

Exoneration

Regretful

Leniency

Purgation

Ashamed

Dispensation

Acquittal

Indulgence

Mercy

Clemency

Pardon

Forgiveness

Vindication

Remission

Sorrowful

Reprieve

Condon

Apologetic

Tolerance

Retentive

Absolution

Amnesty

Pity

**Between the Pages**

**A** little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"

**Beware of Dog**

**U**pon entering a little country store, the stranger noticed a sign warning, "Danger! Beware of dog!" posted on the glass door. Inside, he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register.

"Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?" he asked the owner.

"Yep, that's him," came the reply.

The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because," the owner explained, "Before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

**Smart People**

**A** fellow computer programmer for a consulting group had designed some software for one of our largest accounts. He asked my help in putting it into operation.

At first, he handled most of the work. Eventually, though, he asked me to help with the last phase of the training. When I sat down with one woman and told her I would be showing her how to make changes to the files, she sighed with relief. "I'm so glad you're teaching me instead of him."

Surprised, I said that my colleague was far more experienced than I was.

"Yes," she said, "but I feel much more comfortable with you. I get nervous around really smart people."

**The Answer**

**A** new pastor moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times. Finally, he took out his card and wrote on the back: Revelation 3:20 and stuck it in the door.

The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was the notation Genesis 3:10.

Revelation 3:20 reads: "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me."

Genesis 3:10 reads: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked."

**Little Belief by Gandolf in Larned**

If life's treating you badly  
And you desire to get off that ride  
Then maybe all you need to do is  
Make a decision to swallow your pride

Every one of us needs something to  
Be able to navigate through our days  
All we might really need to do is  
To make a decision to implement some changes in our ways

We may need to make new choices or  
It could be so simple as just a need to talk  
But somehow we must find a way  
Could be so easy as just a different walk

Our walk could be our spirituality  
Something to believe in to relieve our stress  
Which might just be as simple a thing as  
To put faith in God Does Bless!

So, if you'll give it a chance and put your faith in God our King  
You might be so very surprised at all the blessings that it will  
bring!

**Paths by Edward P. in Lansing**

One Up  
One Down  
Jesus' Face  
Turns Me Around  
Even Tho I Sin  
The Path of Righteousness  
Never Comes 2  
An End

I Mite  
Kick and Bite  
Slap and Fight  
But Jesus' Words  
Will Put Me Right

So, I Repent Again  
2 You Lord  
So Don't Kick  
Me Backwards  
Out the Door