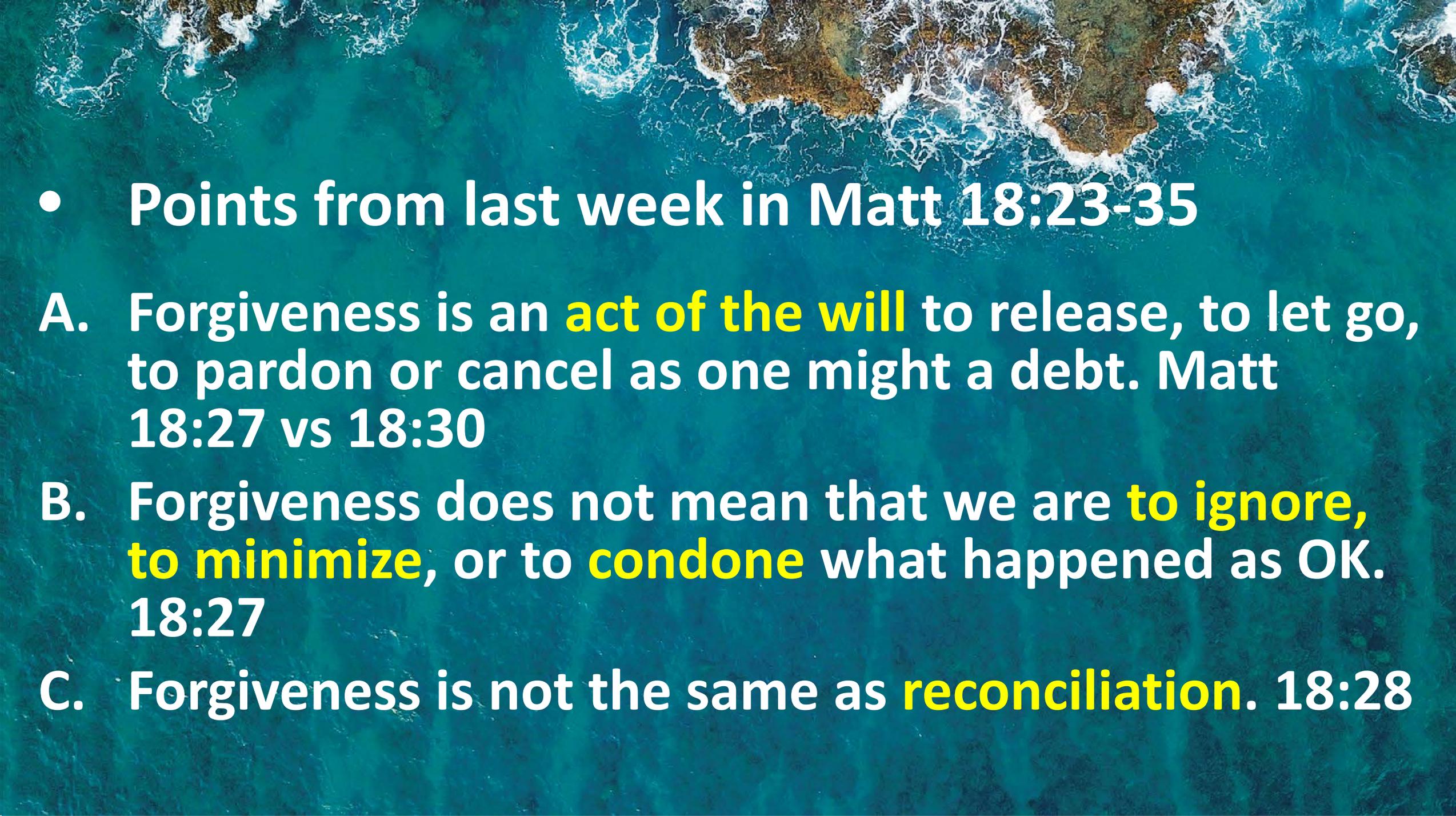


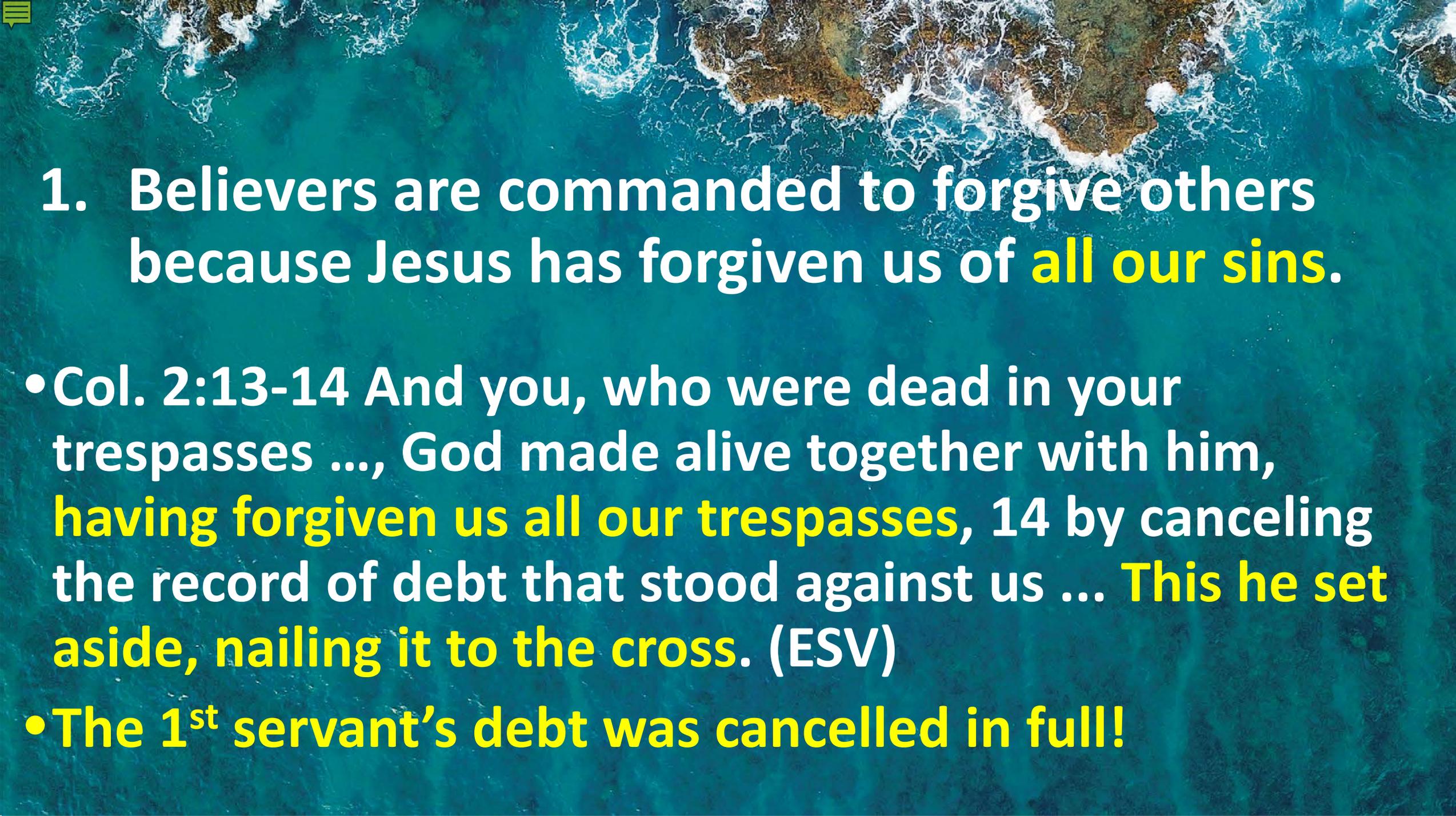


Forgiveness

How and why it works

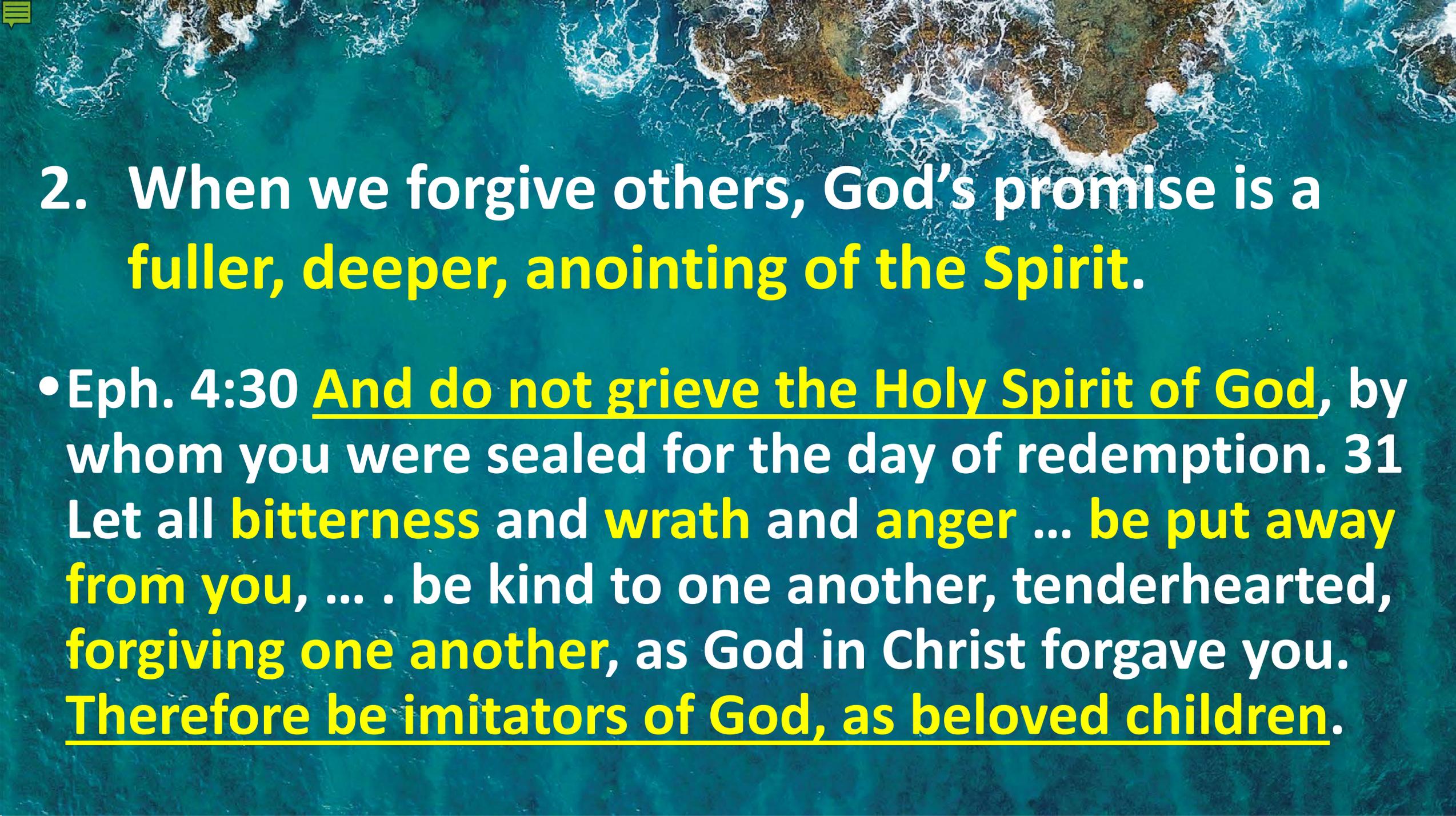
Commanded to Give What We are Given
Matthew 18:23-35

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- Points from last week in Matt 18:23-35
 - A. Forgiveness is an **act of the will** to release, to let go, to pardon or cancel as one might a debt. Matt 18:27 vs 18:30
 - B. Forgiveness does not mean that we are **to ignore, to minimize, or to condone** what happened as OK. 18:27
 - C. Forgiveness is not the same as **reconciliation**. 18:28



1. Believers are commanded to forgive others because Jesus has forgiven us of **all our sins**.

- Col. 2:13-14 And you, who were dead in your trespasses ..., God made alive together with him, **having forgiven us all our trespasses**, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us ... **This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.** (ESV)
- **The 1st servant's debt was cancelled in full!**

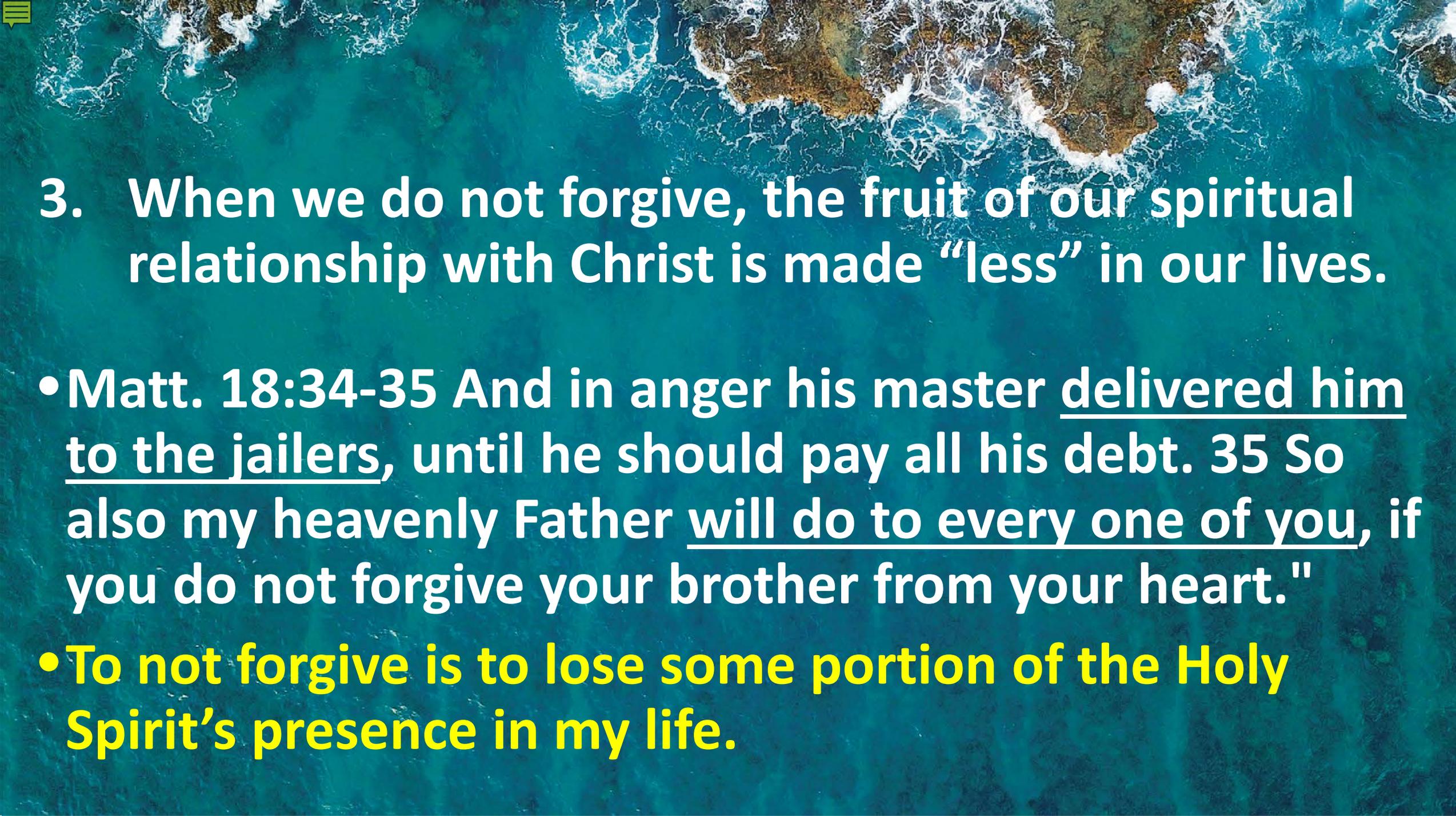


2. When we forgive others, God's promise is a **fuller, deeper, anointing of the Spirit.**

- Eph. 4:30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger ... be put away from you**, be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, as God in Christ forgave you. **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.**

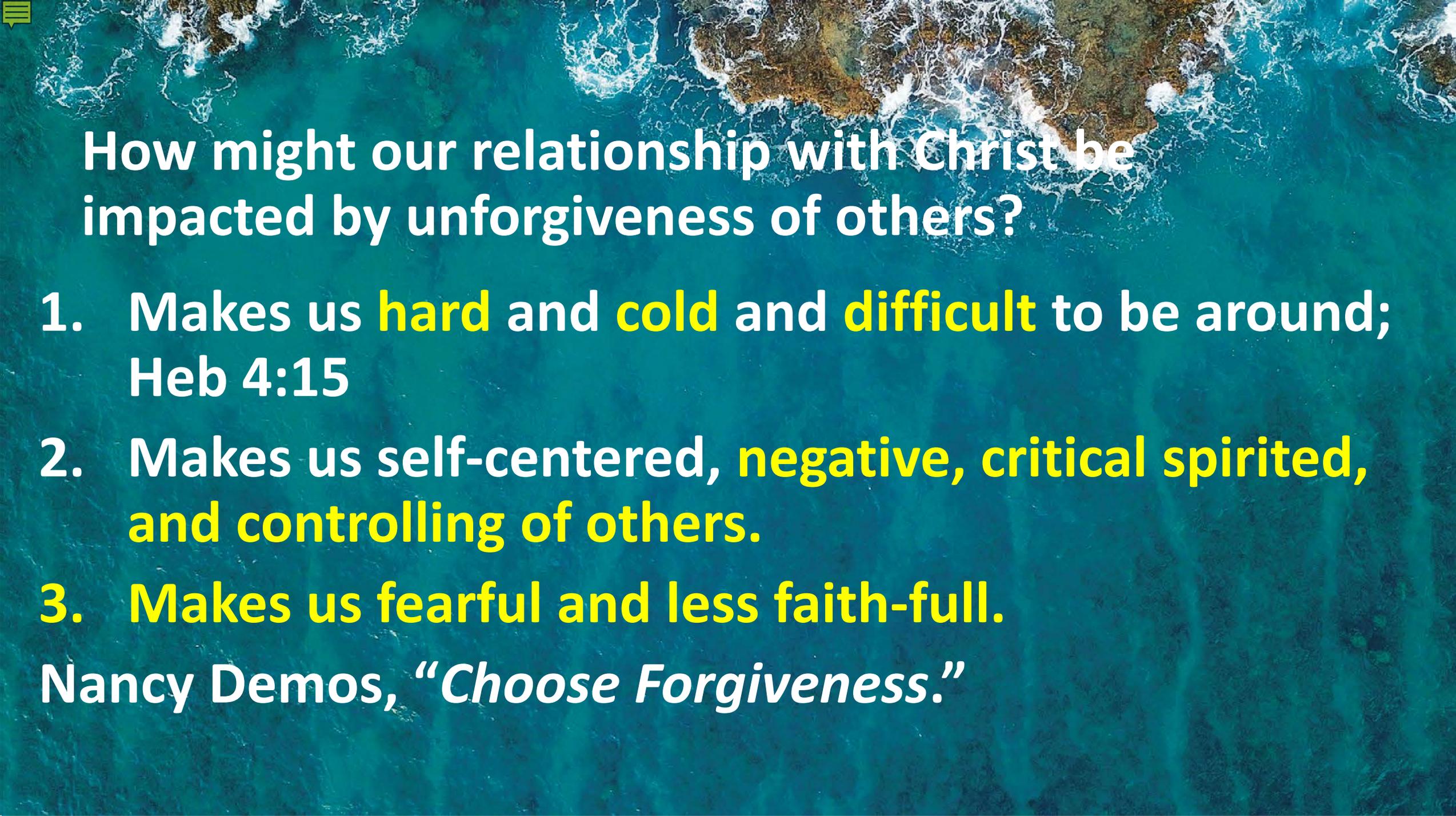


- Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men [particularly ourselves]. ... 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."
- Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness**, (ESV)



3. When we do not forgive, the fruit of our spiritual relationship with Christ is made “less” in our lives.

- Matt. 18:34-35 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."
- To not forgive is to lose some portion of the Holy Spirit's presence in my life.



How might our relationship with Christ be impacted by unforgiveness of others?

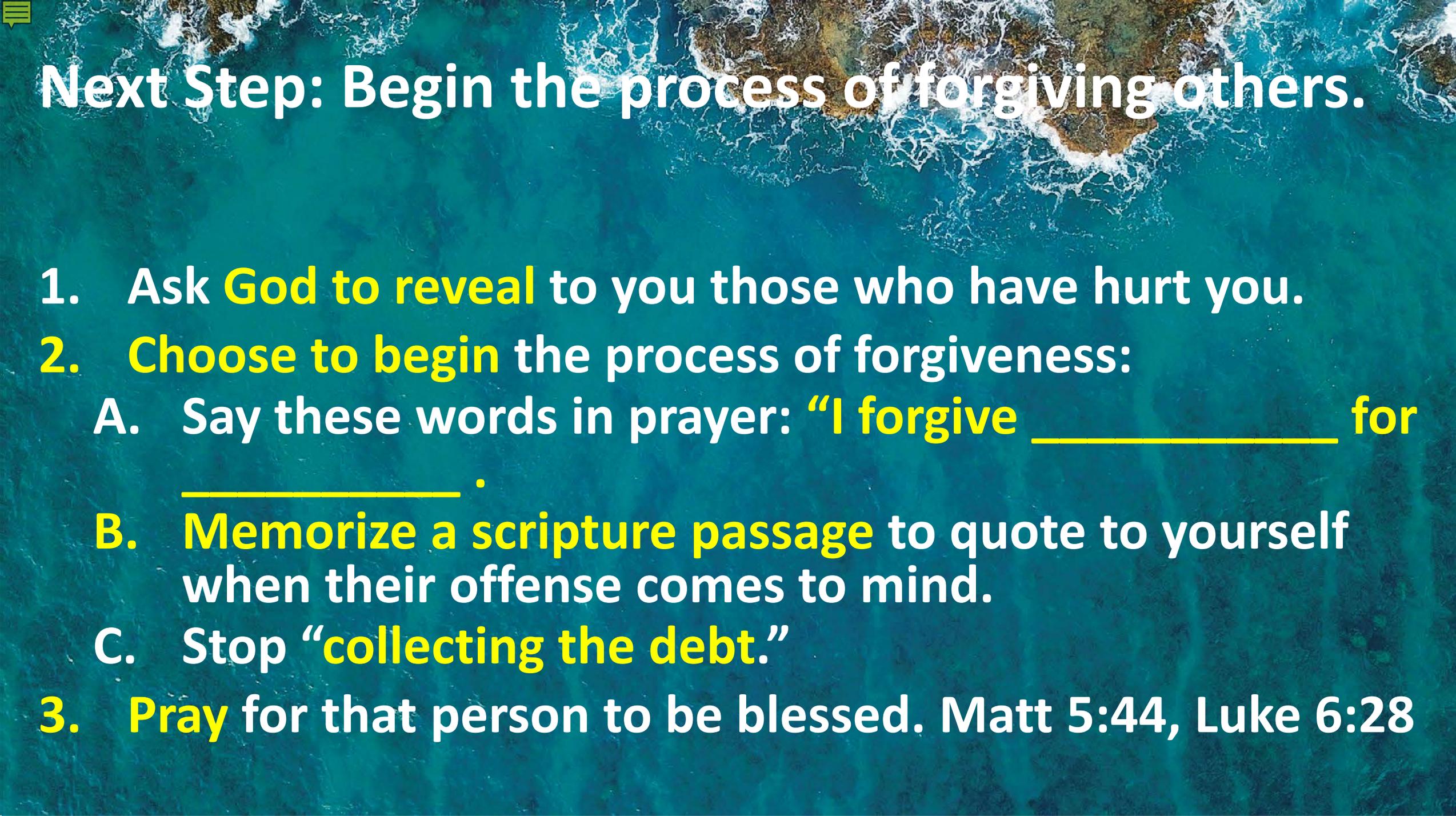
1. Makes us **hard** and **cold** and **difficult** to be around; Heb 4:15
2. Makes us self-centered, **negative, critical spirited, and controlling of others.**
3. **Makes us fearful and less faith-full.**

Nancy Demos, "*Choose Forgiveness.*"

- 
- What does it say (to God) when we do not extend forgiveness to others as God extends it to us?
 - RT Kendall in *“Total Forgiveness”* put it this way:
 1. We **devalue** (take for granted) the forgiveness that has been given us. Matt 18:28, Luke 18:10-12
 2. We **interrupt God’s plan** for us to **“pay it forward.”**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

4. To not forgive puts us dangerously close to being snared by the devil.

- Eph. 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. (ESV)
- 2 Cor. 2:10-11 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. ..., 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.



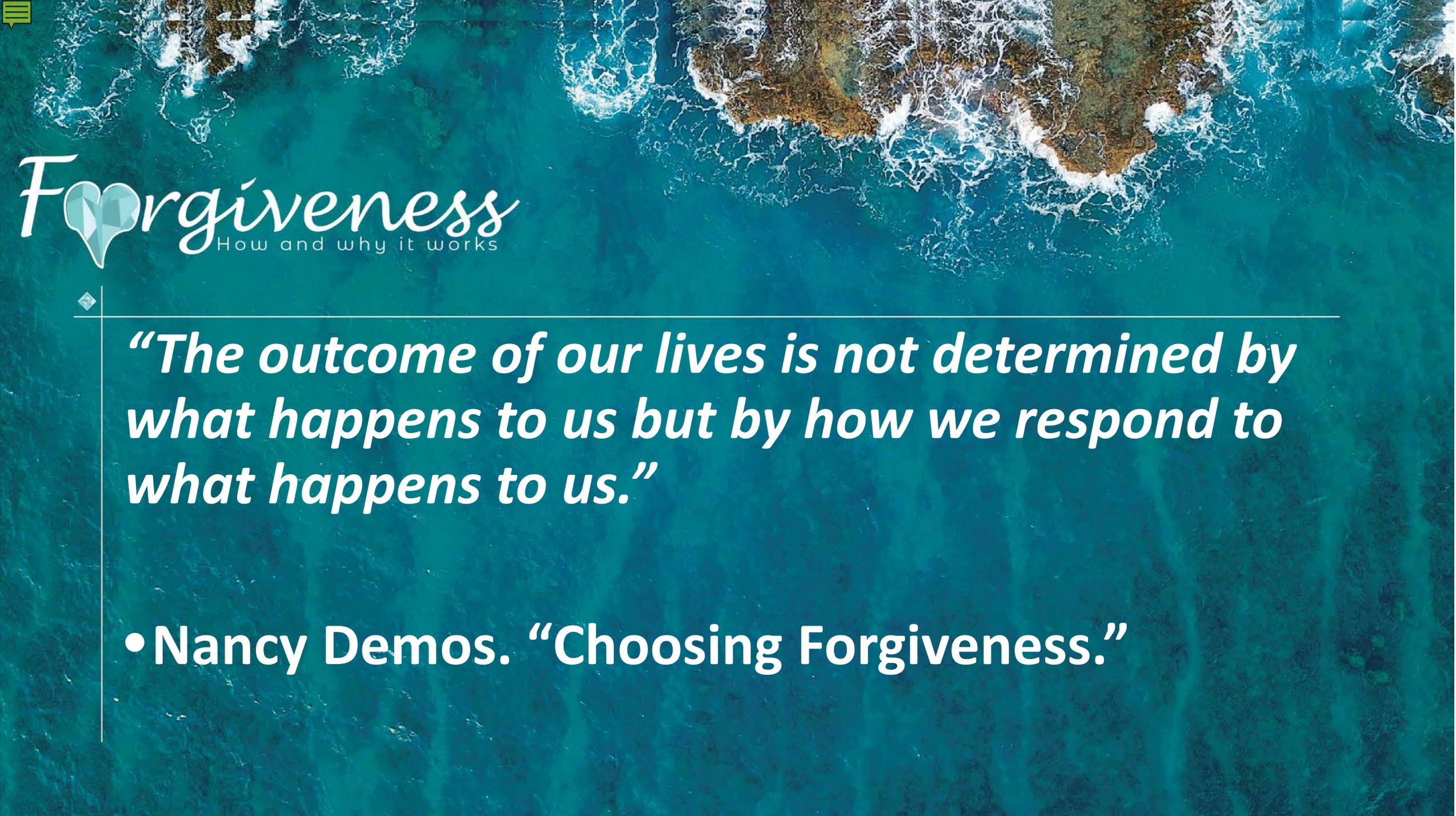
Next Step: Begin the process of forgiving others.

1. Ask **God to reveal** to you those who have hurt you.
2. **Choose to begin** the process of forgiveness:
 - A. Say these words in prayer: **“I forgive _____ for _____.”**
 - B. **Memorize a scripture passage** to quote to yourself when their offense comes to mind.
 - C. Stop **“collecting the debt.”**
3. **Pray** for that person to be blessed. Matt 5:44, Luke 6:28



Additional Resources

- ***Choosing Forgiveness*, Nancy DeMoss. Moody Publishers.**
- ***Forgive & Forget*, Lewis Smedes, Harper One Publishers.**
- ***Total Forgiveness*, RT Kendal**

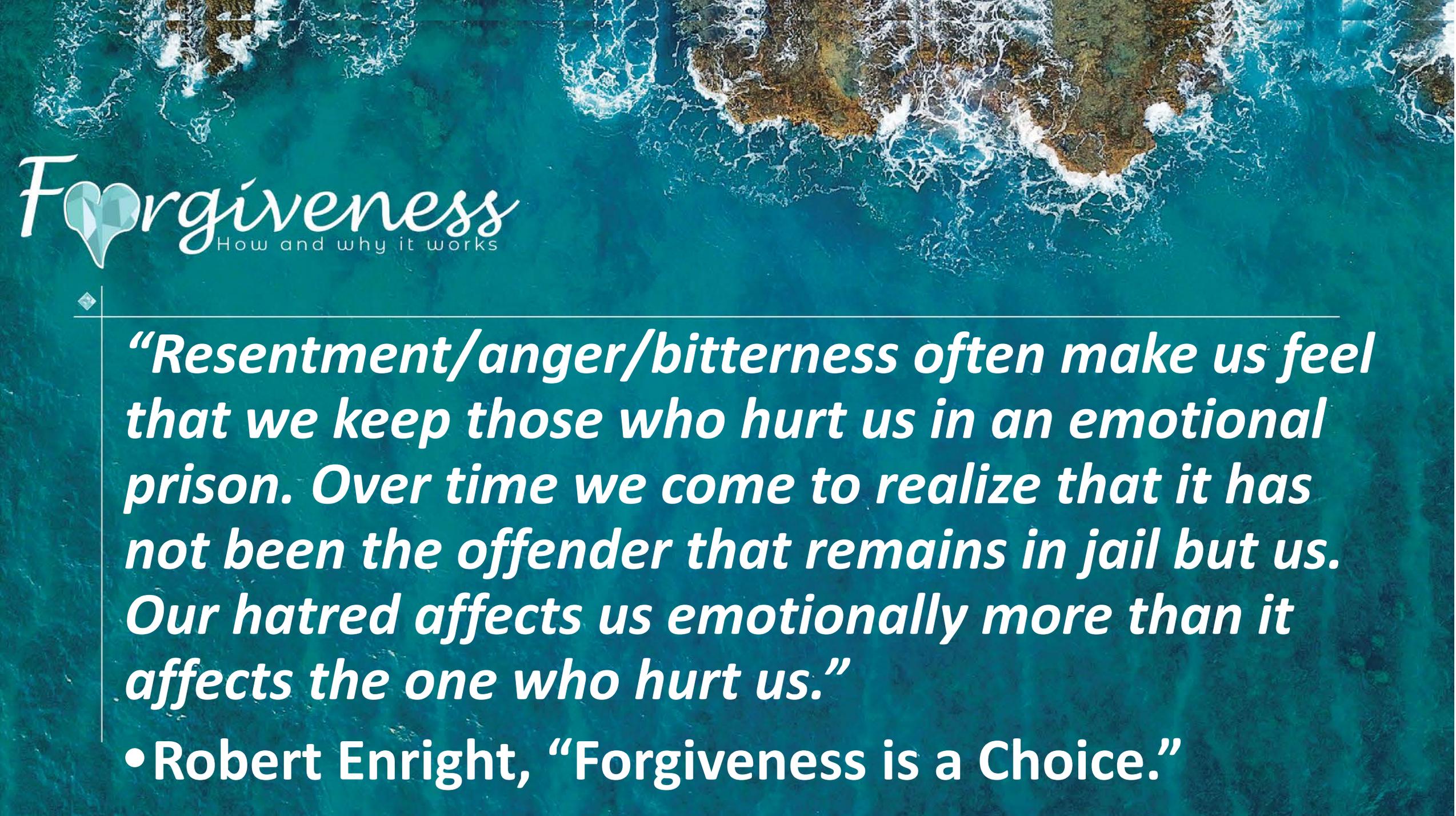


Forgiveness

How and why it works

“The outcome of our lives is not determined by what happens to us but by how we respond to what happens to us.”

- Nancy Demos. “Choosing Forgiveness.”



Forgiveness

How and why it works

“Resentment/anger/bitterness often make us feel that we keep those who hurt us in an emotional prison. Over time we come to realize that it has not been the offender that remains in jail but us. Our hatred affects us emotionally more than it affects the one who hurt us.”

• Robert Enright, “Forgiveness is a Choice.”