

BREAKING FREE FROM THE SCORECARD MENTALITY

January 2nd, 2026

by Pastor Joe Inman



Pastor Joe's Corner - January 2026



Breaking Free from the Scorecard Mentality

Have you ever found yourself keeping score when it comes to forgiveness, thinking, "I'll forgive them this time, but if they do it again..."? This natural human tendency to put limits on grace reveals a spiritual struggle that can hinder our relationship with God and limit His power in our lives. In Matthew 18:21, Peter approached Jesus with a seemingly generous

🔍 search...

Recent

Caya Fellowship Inf...
May 12th, 2026

Breaking Free from...
January 2nd, 2026

Christmas Stories ...
December 27th,

2025

Movies That Matte...
December 22nd,

2025

Reaching the Worl...
December 21st,

2025

Archive

✓ 2026

➤ January

➤ May

➤ 2025

Categories

Caya Info

Christian Music

Christmas

Events

Forgiveness

Hearing from God

Humor

question: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" Peter thought he was being magnanimous, as Jewish teaching suggested forgiving someone three times was sufficient. Jesus' response shattered all human calculations: "I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." This wasn't a literal mathematical formula, but rather Jesus' way of saying forgiveness should be limitless.



The Problem with Keeping Score

When we count our acts of forgiveness, we reveal a troubling scorekeeping mentality that extends to our entire relationship with God. Many believers unconsciously put limits on their spiritual growth, setting comfortable boundaries and refusing to step beyond them, even when God is calling them to greater things.

Jesus illustrated this principle with the Parable of the Unpayable Debt. A servant owed his king 10,000 talents—an impossible debt. The king, showing incredible mercy, forgave the entire debt. Yet, this same servant immediately went out and had a fellow servant thrown into prison over a debt of just a few dollars.

What God Doesn't Owe Us

Here is a hard truth: God doesn't owe us anything. Yet, we often operate

Letters to the Editor
Ministry News &
Updates
Movies that Matter
Nothing But Outlaw
Outreach
Pastor Joe's Corner
Pastor Joe's Corner
Pastoral Life
Recommendations
The Lunchbox Block
The Well Read Llama

Tags

CAYA Fellowship Christian spiritual
growth Letters to the Editor Matthew
18 forgiveness teaching addiction
recovery biblical forgiveness faith-
based healing faith-based media
outreach forgiveness global Christian
ministry how to forgive others online
church community overcoming
addiction overcoming unforgiveness
religious freedom in schools rural ministry
Uganda spiritual growth student rights
and free speech twelve steps
unforgiveness

with an entitled mindset, thinking, "I serve, I go to church—I should get bigger blessings." This misunderstands the nature of grace. We are the ones with the unpayable debt. Every sin, every rebellion—it all adds up to a debt we could never repay. But God, in His incredible mercy, forgave it all through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.



The Cost of Unforgiveness

When we refuse to forgive others or ourselves, we pay a steep price:

- Limited Spiritual Authority: Unforgiveness limits the power God wants to give us. Anger, jealousy, and bitterness create barriers that prevent us from experiencing the fullness of God.
- Physical and Spiritual Bondage: Holding onto hurt can manifest in physical problems and keeps us in spiritual bondage, preventing us from becoming who God created us to be.
- Stunted Growth: We cannot move forward if we are anchored to our past hurts and pain.

Sometimes, the hardest person to forgive is ourselves. We replay our failures and mistakes. But the truth is: if God has forgiven us, who are we to withhold forgiveness

from ourselves? When Christ died, He said, "It is finished." That includes your past, your mistakes, and your failures.

The Freedom Found in

Forgiveness

Remember the freedom you felt when the weight of sin was lifted off your shoulders? That freedom is still available. Christ gave you freedom; do not let people, circumstances, or even your own thoughts put chains back on you.

God has amazing plans for each of us, but until we stop limiting Him with our conditions and comfort zones, we will struggle with the same issues. The question isn't whether God is ready to move in your life. The question is: Are you ready to take that next step?

The real cost of spiritual growth is dying to what the flesh wants and moving forward in the Spirit. It's about denying ourselves and following Christ, even when it's uncomfortable.


Examine your heart for areas where you've been keeping score. Choose to release that debt, just as God released yours. Stop putting conditions on your relationship with God and allow Him to take you to the next level of spiritual growth and authority.

Remember, God's grace toward you was extravagant and limitless. Now it's time to extend that same grace to others and to yourself, breaking free from the bondage of unforgiveness and stepping into the fullness of what God has planned for your life.

Want to print this article? Click on icon below and will take you to a PDF file. Click on printer on top right corner.



 **Posted in** Forgiveness, Pastor Joe's Corner

 **Posted in** biblical forgiveness, how to forgive others, Matthew 18 forgiveness teaching, overcoming unforgiveness, Christian spiritual growth, forgiveness, unforgiveness

About

At CAYA Fellowship, we are more than just a church; we are a family rooted in faith, love, and community. Our mission is to bring people closer to Christ through worship, study, and outreach efforts right here in Forsyth, Missouri.

Service Times

Sunday Mornings

11:00am

Sunday Evenings

7:00pm

Wednesday

Evenings

6:30pm

Contact Info

417.696.2324

1072 US 76

Forsyth MO. 65653

Follow Us

