

In today's Scripture verse we see Peter asking the Lord how often he should forgive his brother. The Lord's answer to him was simple: Up to 70 times seven times. (Matthew 18:22) In other words, all the time! You may feel that the person does not deserve your forgiveness, but remember that neither did you deserve God's forgiveness. There is not a single person alive or dead who did not break all 10 of God's commandments. There is no such thing as a "partial sinner" or "great sinner". All of us were great sinners when Jesus saved us, and when we realize that we are forgiven much, we will love much. (Luke 7:47)

You may feel that you have not broken all of God's commandments, because, for example, you have never committed adultery. However, Jesus said, "If you lust after a woman in your heart, you have already committed adultery with her." (Matthew 5:28) That is God's standard. Man looks outward, but God looks inward at the heart. Moreover, if you break one law, you are guilty of all. (James 2:10) So everyone has broken all of God's commandments. Everyone is a great sinner. Now, you are no longer a sinner if you have received Christ as your Saviour. You are a new creation, but you were a great sinner, and God forgave you your huge debt through the death of His Son.

So if someone has wronged you, tell yourself this: "I did not deserve God's forgiveness, but He forgave me through Christ. So I forgive this person also." If you choose to hold on to anger, hatred and bitterness, no-one suffers but you. You lose your peace, and then very often your health too. It is just not worth it. God says to you, "Let go. Forgive them their debts, just as I have forgiven you yours."

Matthew 18:21 "Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"