

When Jesus sent His 12 disciples out to minister to the needy in His Name, He gave them power to heal the sick and drive out demons, and even raise the dead. (Matthew 10:1-15) He spoke a principle that infuses all of the Christian life: "Freely you have received, freely give." (verse 8) In other words, the disciples had no power of their own to restore the afflicted; *Jesus* gave them power. Since they had freely received power and authority, they were to freely use that power to help others. They were to do what Jesus would have done if He had been there.

The principle of freely receiving and freely giving applies to a challenging part of life - the challenge of forgiveness. The apostle Paul wrote about forgiveness: We are to forgive others in the same way God has forgiven us. Freely we have received forgiveness, so freely we are to give forgiveness. Not to give forgiveness is to imprison ourselves behind the bars of resentment, anger, and vengeance. The only way to live free is to receive God's forgiveness, and then freely give it to others.

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."