

Venom: Emotion: Developing the Habit of Forgiveness & Deference to Divine Justice under Pressure, Ephesians 4:32c

Part of having a grace mental attitude includes the willingness to function under grace forgiveness. This is brought out by the present middle participle of the verb: *charizomai* - This word is one of the Greek language's strongest words for forgiveness.

present: Iterative; depicts an act which is repeated at successive intervals. Thus, this is called the present tense of repeated action.

NOTE: Remember the main verb introducing the verse is *ginomai*: "*to become*." It is a Customary Present: that which habitually occurs or is reasonably expected to occur. Both the Customary and Iterative linked with the imperative mood reveal a mandate to develop behavior patterns, character traits and lifestyle under facilitated wheel-tracks of righteousness.

This repeated action means a facilitated wheel-track regarding one's behavior when wronged. One of the major tests which confronts the believer in his spiritual growth is people testing.

When others wrong you then you are to forgive them while exhibiting an attitude of compassion, longsuffering, and lovingkindness. This is to be a behavior pattern in your *modus operandi*. When you are wronged, insulted, used, mistreated, lied to, deceived, judged, misunderstood, betrayed, or maligned you are to defer judgment to the justice of God.

Your duty is to forgive the person for their mistreatment of you and move on with your life leaving them in the hands of the Supreme Court of Heaven. Such forgiveness does not imply that you have to be fast friends, make yourself a doormat for abuse, or disregard violations of your person, privacy, property, or reputation.

You have a right before God to select your acquaintances and to associate with whomever you please. But you may not hold a grudge, plot revenge, nurture anger, harbor bitterness, or execute punishment. These things "must be removed" according to Ephesians 4:31. Instead you are to defer judgment over to the justice of God, forgive your adversary, and move forward in your quest to take Santa Fé. This means you have to forget what people have done who wronged you. Quite often this means that you have to bury people who have been buried for years. Dead people are often kept around as handy targets upon whom anger, bitterness, hatred, and revenge are projected.

Further, those without spiritual self-esteem use dead people and what they've done to them as an excuse for failure in the spiritual life. "*Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, nobody knows my state of sorrow*." Forgive the wrong, isolate it in the past, forget its impact on you, focus your eyes on the prize, and move on down the Trail. This in no way takes blame, guilt, or responsibility away from your adversary. They are wrong, they are guilty, and they will be held responsible for what they did.

By turning the entire case over to the Supreme Court of Heaven, you bring the matter to a close, trust God to dispense justice, and get on with your life. Thus, when you forgive a person, you are not saying they are not wrong, guilty, or responsible. What you are saying is that you resolve to forget about it.

Your grace orientation to life and doctrinal adjustment to reality places the case in the hands of God who has all the facts. Justice is now in the hands of the supreme Judge of the Universe. Your adversary is now a defendant before the Judgment Bar of God. He is charged with an offense against a member of the Royal Family of God.

This is problem-solving in the field of people testing which combines many of the 10 devices: rebound impulsive or chronic sins; faith-rest the case to the justice of God; apply a grace mental attitude towards your adversary; doctrinally orient to Jesus Christ's judgment for your sins; concentrate on your mission which is your destiny in the plan of God; focus on your personal love for God Who has forgiven you; direct unconditional love towards your adversary with this same grace function; proceed on the Trail with the tranquility of soul which results from sharing the happiness of God; and focus your attention on serving the Lord Christ. You are to manage people testing in this fashion every time it occurs. It is to become a behavior pattern and a character trait.

present: Iterative; depicts an act which is repeated at successive intervals. Thus, this is called the present tense of repeated action - "*keep forgiving*."