



*Encountering God's Presence
Through Forgiveness*

“Out of the depths I call to you, Lord; Lord, hear my cry! May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, Lord, mark our sins, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness and so you are revered.” (Psalm 130: 1-4)

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your sins.” (Mark 11:25)

*“Anyone who has ever extended forgiveness to another who has hurt them knows that the freedom that comes from forgiveness surpasses by far the hardened security of carrying a grudge.” -
Unknown*

Ways to encounter God through Forgiveness

Today, come to God and ask for his forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

God loves to forgive and show mercy. That's just who he is... Sit with him, talk to him, listen to him. He knows you, every part of you, all your secrets.

God sees our sin but is ready to forgive us because Jesus fully took OUR sin on Himself and paid for our sin by His death on the cross.

If you've asked God to forgive...you are forgiven!!! Praise Him for His love and mercy!

Today, forgive yourself.

There is nothing you can ever do that would make God loves you less.

The hardest person to forgive is often ourselves. We do not show ourselves the same mercy.

Receiving His forgiveness means believing I am forgiven and that I should also forgive myself.

Today, forgive someone.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

God wants us to forgive others in the same way he forgives us.

Forgiveness is about getting your heart right with God. Even if the one who hurt or offended you is not sorry for their actions, don't put off forgiveness. Forgiving others is about your relationship with God.

Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. – Unknown

Today, ask someone for forgiveness.

"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23)

We must be remorseful; take responsibility; and apologize to those we have hurt or offended. We should ask for their forgiveness. Whether they forgive us or not is their choice.

Other Resources and Practical Suggestions for Encountering God through Forgiveness

- ♦ Attend the Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Read *Living the Lord's Prayer: The Way of the Disciple*, by Albert Haase O.F.M.
- ♦ Forgiveness: <https://blog.ascensionpress.com/video/forgiveness/>
- ♦ Eight steps to Forgiveness: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/iyf/advice/faithqa/8-steps-to-forgiveness.html>

