

# The Gift of God's Command to "Forgive"

Watch Nadia Bolz-Weber's video linked [here](#).

NOTE: this video contains strong language.

---



Read these passages from the Bible:

"At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, 'Master, how many times do I **forgive** a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?' Jesus replied, 'Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.'" -Matthew 18:21-22 (MSG)

Then [Jesus] took a deep breath and breathed into [the disciples]. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you **forgive** someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't **forgive** sins, what are you going to do with them?" -John 20:22-23 (MSG)

## Fun fact about the original Greek...

**Aphiemi** (a-fee-ay-mee) [Greek] means to let go, release, leave behind; translated as "forgiveness" in English

**Aphiemi** does *not* mean "make nice"

Reflect on these questions:

- How would you describe "forgiveness?"
  - If someone hurts you and doesn't feel bad or apologize, why might you want to forgive them anyway?
  - In the video Pastor Nadia talks about forgiveness making us "freedom fighters." Can you describe a time when you experienced the freedom that came from forgiving someone who hurt you? What did it feel like?
  - Is there a grudge weighing you down now? How might forgiving someone impact your life?
  - Desmond Tutu says "forgiveness can heal the world." Do you believe that? Why or why not?
- 

[Nadia Bolz-Weber](#) is an ordained Lutheran Pastor, founder of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, Co, the creator and host of The Confessional and the author of three NYT bestselling memoirs: *Pastrix*; *The Cranky, Beautiful Faith Of A Sinner & Saint* (2013 and re-released in 2021), *Accidental Saints*; *Finding God In All The Wrong People* (2015) and *SHAMELESS; A Sexual Reformation* (2019).

She writes and speaks about personal failings, recovery, grace, faith, and really whatever else she wants to. She always sits in the corner with the other weirdoes. Subscribe to [The Corners](#) to receive her writing in your inbox weekly.

