

FIVE HINDRANCES OF

Prayer

REASONS MY PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED



Mark 11:25

25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you for your offenses.

PART 3

Five Things That Hinder Our Prayers: UNFORGIVING HEART

I. Unforgiving Heart

(Mark 11:25)



1. We know that sin displeases God and separates us from Him, but what about unforgiveness?

Why does unforgiveness matter?

“To err is human, to forgive, divine.”

When Alexander Pope wrote those immortal words, he stated a truth that still resonates in our own hearts.

.Forgiving others seems to be one of the hardest things some of us will ever have to do.

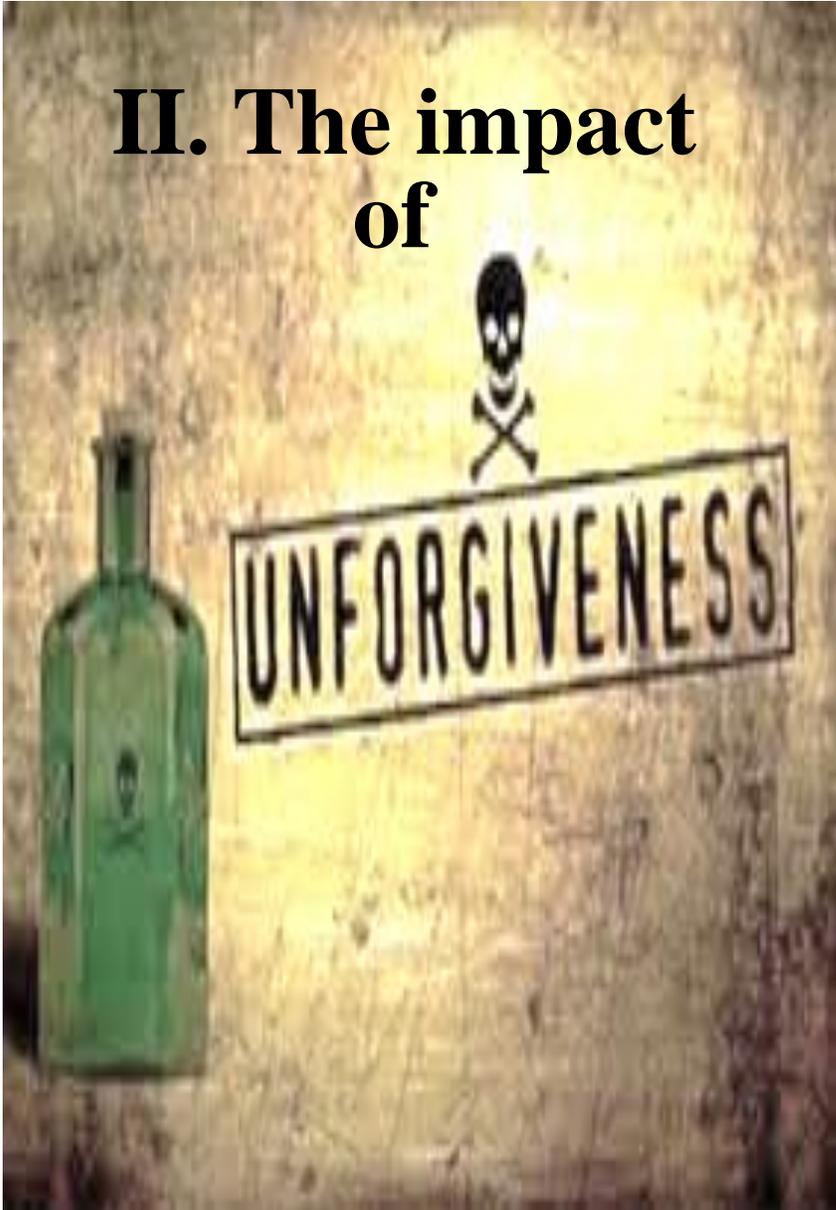
.To forgive truly takes divine intervention the definition of forgiveness.

II. The impact of



UNFORGIVENESS

- ❖ Unforgiveness is a sin (Mark 11:25).
- ❖ Unforgiveness fills us with bitterness, and God is a God of Love.
- ❖ Unforgiveness separates us from others as we try to protect ourselves from more pain.



❖ Unforgiveness is contrary to the Word of God.

❖ Unforgiveness points our attention to what bothers us rather than to God.

❖ Unforgiveness, like all problems are to be cast upon God (1 Peter 5:7). If we refuse to forgive, we are not trusting God (Proverb 3:5-6, Psalm 25:1).

❖ Unforgiveness falsely puts us on par with God.



James 4:12

When we refuse to forgive, we make ourselves a judge of the other person. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you, who are you to judge your neighbor?

Matthew 7:1-2

God is the judge, Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

To forgive — to stop blaming or taking an offense into account.

To be forgiven (state) — to be or become pardoned or exempt from legal or personal consequences for an offense.

Forgiveness (absolution) — a formal release from an obligation or debt; especially understood of the debt of sin.

Forgiveness (debt) — a cancelation or forgiveness of debt.

Forgiveness (offense) — an act in which a mistake or offense is no longer considered or held against another.

Forgiveness is the release, on the part of the creditor or offended party, of any expectation that a debt will be repaid or that an offender will receive punishment for an offense. When describing the removal of an inappropriate offense in this way, the removal does not condone the behavior or suggest approval for the offense.

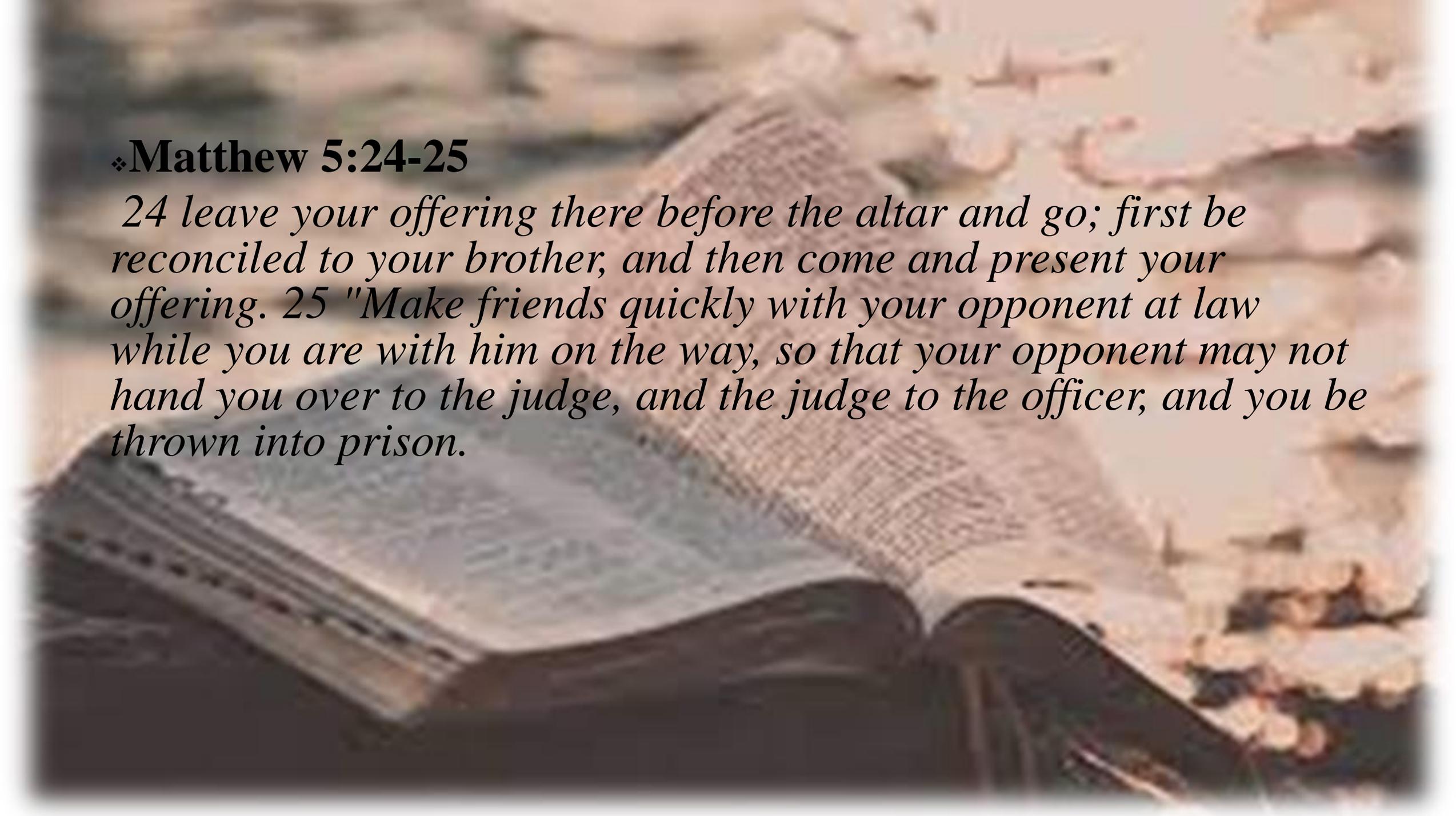
What Is Offense:

The Greek word for “offend” in Luke 17:1 comes from the word *skandalon*. This word originally referred to the part of the trap to which the bait was attached. Hence the word signifies laying a trap in someone’s way. In the New Testament it often describes an entrapment used by the enemy. Offense is a tool of the devil to bring people into captivity.

(John Bevere- “The Bait Of Satan)

Paul instructed young Timothy:

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:24-26 NKJV)

An open book with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective. The pages are light-colored and feature faint, illegible text. Overlaid on the left side of the book is a block of text in a serif font. The background behind the book is a textured, light brown surface.

❖ **Matthew 5:24-25**

24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. 25 "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

An open book with a dark cover is shown from a top-down perspective. The pages are white with black text. The book is open to a page with a grid pattern. The text is overlaid on the image in a serif font. The background is a blurred, warm-toned image of a landscape or a textured surface.

❖ **Matthew 6:14**

14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

❖ **Ephesians 4:26**

26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

❖ **1 Peter 3:7**

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

❖ **Luke 17:1**

*1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable * that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come!"*

❖ **Matthew 18:21-27**

21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26 "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' 27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

❖Matthew 18:28-35

28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' 29 "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' 30 "But he was unwilling * and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' 34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

❖ **Luke 6:37**

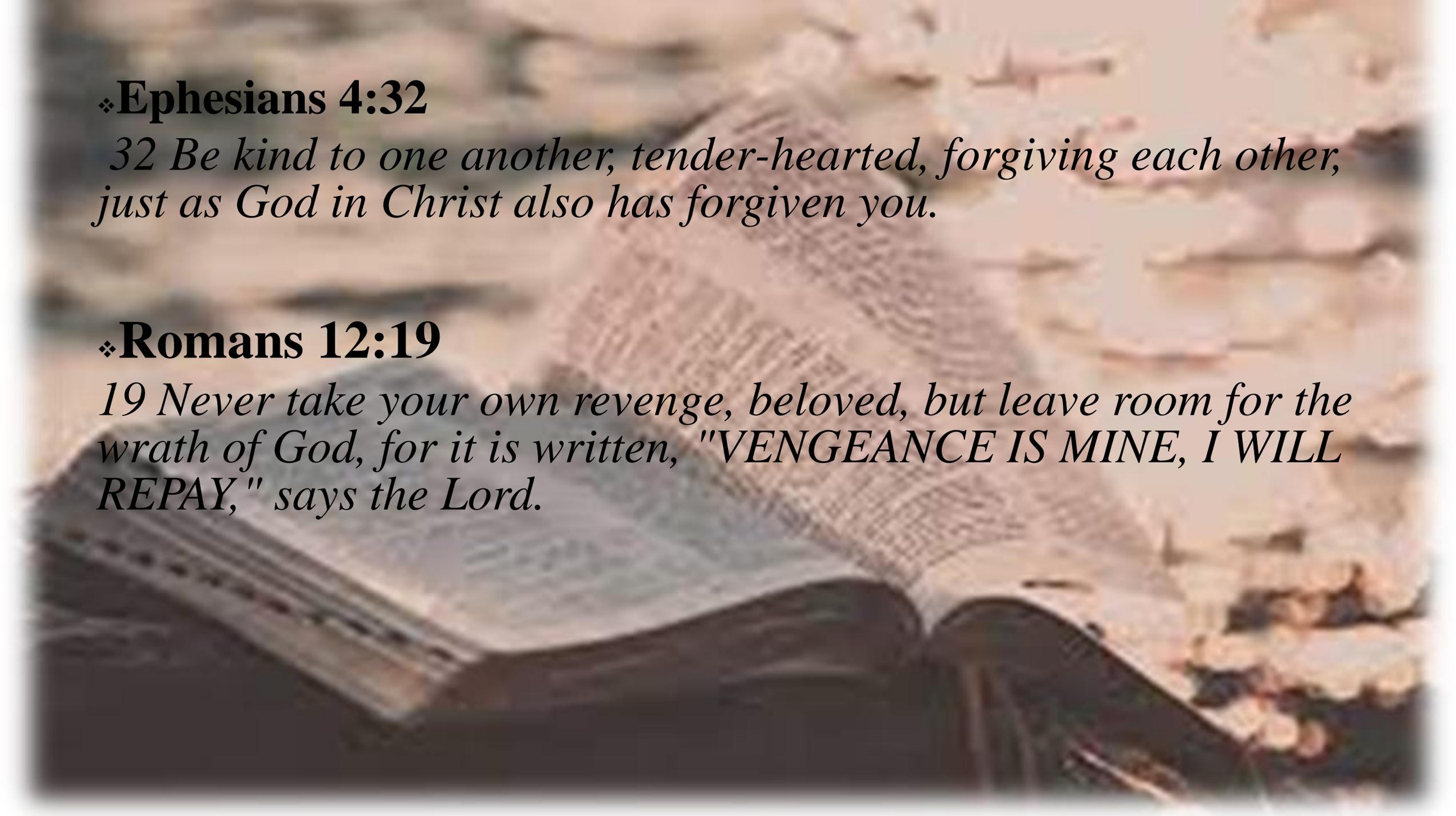
37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.

❖ **Hebrews 12:14-15**

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

❖2 Corinthians 1:5-11

*5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively *, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, 11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.*

An open book with a dark cover is shown from a high angle, lying flat. The pages are white with some faint, illegible text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color. The text is overlaid on the left side of the book.

❖ **Ephesians 4:32**

32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

❖ **Romans 12:19**

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

Takeaways from scripture text:

- ❖ Unforgiveness will always erode the life of the offended.
- ❖ Unforgiveness will spread like cancer through the spirit of the offended.
- ❖ Unforgiveness needs to be dealt with as quickly as possible to avoid a blockage between the offended and God.

Release and let go



Every believer will have opportunities to choose between holding on to an offense or letting it go.



Unforgiveness
can often be
detected in a
person's
speech and
behavior.



As
believers
we are to
be peace
makers.