

So in order to have the relationship God made us to have with him restored, we ourselves need to be forgiven.

This forgiveness is available to us because of Jesus' death

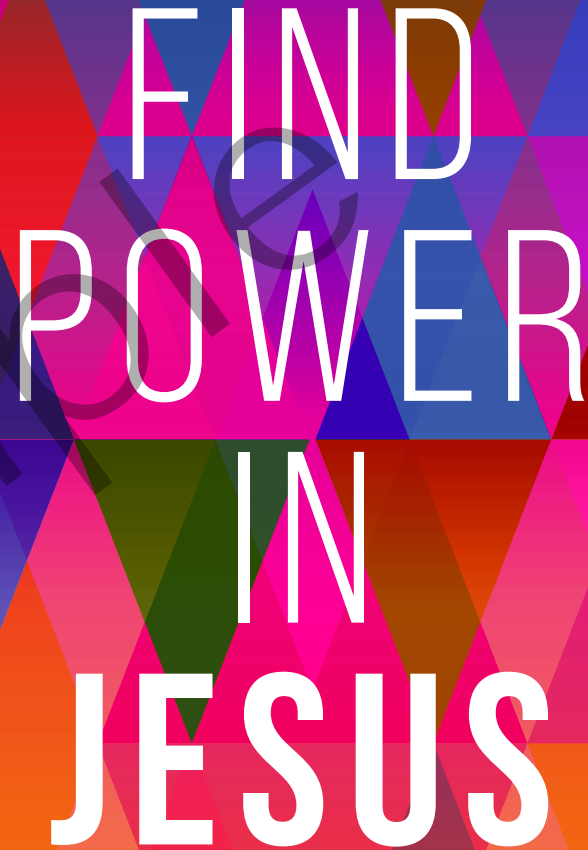
Jesus himself said: " ...if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6: 14-15)

When you know you are forgiven by the Creator of the universe, it is much easier to offer that forgiveness to others. God will help you, if you ask Him.

The power of God's forgiveness can change your life, if you offer it to him.

"Forgive, as the Lord forgave you."

(Colossians 3: 13)



FIND POWER IN JESUS

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE THE GREATEST POWER IN THE UNIVERSE WHAT WOULD YOU PICK?

Nuclear power, maybe – able to supply energy to millions but also arm the most destructive weapons man has yet invented?

Or possibly the natural elements: the relentless power of the sea, the life-giving heat of the sun or the awesome strength of the wind?

Yet there is a greater power even than these.

that power is forgiveness

Where it is exercised, freedom, peace, healing and reconciliation follow.

Where it is denied, bitterness, conflict, pain and separation are the almost inevitable consequences.

Many of us have been wronged by others. Sometimes it has been a trivial comment or action that has caused hurt unintentionally. On other occasions it may have been a premeditated act, designed to cause pain and suffering.

Often our sense of natural justice springs up - they are in the wrong, so why should we forgive, particularly if there is no apology or sense of remorse? Yet holding on to our grievance rarely helps us move on. Too often we are left bitter and unable to enjoy life fully.

We may even feel we want to forgive, but simply cannot do it.

HOW DO WE BREAK THIS IMPASSE?

The Bible tells us that:

"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3: 23).

However much we have been wronged, we are far from perfect ourselves and our wrongdoing comes between us and God.