**Forgiveness –** the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense; letting go of grudges and bitterness; letting go of negative emotions such as vengefulness; mercy, pity, acquittal, pardoning, clearing, clemency, leniency.

**“*Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude*.” –** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Genesis 50:14-21** (NLT)

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

***14****After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father’s burial.****15****But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said.****16****So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us* ***17****to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So, we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept.****18****Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said.****19****But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?****20****You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.****21****No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So, he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.*

“***Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that***.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“***Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future***.” - Paul Boose

**Matthew 18:21-22** New Living Translation (NLT)

***21****Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”****22****“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!*

**Mark 11:24-25***New Living Translation (NLT)*

***24****I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.****25****But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.*

**Luke 17:3-4** (NLT)

**3**So watch yourselves! “If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. **4**Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.”

**Luke 23:33-35** (NLT)

***33****When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.****34****Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.****35****The crowd watched, and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”*

*“****They caused the first wound, but you are causing the rest; this is what not forgiving does. They got it started, but you keep it going. Forgive and let it go, or it will eat you alive. You think they made you feel this way, but when you won’t forgive, you are the one inflicting the pain on yourself****.”-* Bryant McGill