



“To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless.”

G.K. Chesterton
Writer
(1874-1936)

Perhaps one of the most powerful and implicating words in the very familiar “Lord’s Prayer” is the word “**as**”. It is prayed, “Forgive us our trespasses **as** we forgive those who trespass against us”. The implication of that word “**as**” is profound. In a way, we praying that God forgive us (only?) **as** we forgive others. If we do not forgive others their offenses against us and then we pray that God forgive us as we forgive others, are we confirming God should not have to forgive us our offenses? Or since we want God to forgive us “seven times seven times”, do we go out of our way to forgive others so that, indeed, God may “forgive us...**as**....we forgive others....”

Is it a coworker? Is it a manager or a direct report? Is it a particularly ornery patient? Is it a loved one? Is it our teenage son or daughter? Is it our aging parent living in our house? Is it that “former” friend who we just realized belongs to a differing political party than I or voted for someone different than I did? Who is it that needs outreach? Who is that needs the tender hands of forgiveness? Who is it that would require the most swallowing of pride for us to “go after” in order to attempt healing? Forgiveness? Reconciliation?

Even when all might seem hopeless, the power of forgiveness can work miracles. Though we can see the power and beauty of hope in history, seeing hope in the midst of contemporary trial is difficult. Realizing and experiencing the hope of knowing God’s love is always there for us might just begin with us. So make that call. Soon.