Forgiving God's Way

Matthew 18:15 • Mark 11:25 • Luke 17:3–4

Three passages, one pattern

Release It Before God

1

RELEASE

Mark 11:25

“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

WHERE	WHO	REPENT FIRST?
In prayer	You and God	No

Go to Your Brother

2

GO

Matthew 18:15

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”

WHERE	WHO	REPENT FIRST?
Face to face	You and him, alone	Yes: “if he hear”

Restore Without Limit

3

RESTORE

Luke 17:3–4

“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”

WHERE	REPENT FIRST?	LIMIT?
Face to face	Yes: “if he repent”	None

Side by Side

RELEASE Mark 11:25	GO Matthew 18:15	RESTORE Luke 17:3–4
WHERE In prayer, before God	**WHERE** Face to face, alone	**WHERE** Face to face
WHO You and God	**WHO** You and your brother	**WHO** You and your brother
REPENT FIRST? No	**REPENT FIRST?** Yes: “if he hear”	**REPENT FIRST?** Yes: “if he repent”
GOAL A clear heart	**GOAL** Gain your brother	**GOAL** Restore, no limit

The Pattern



RELEASE it before God

Mark 11:25

GO to your brother

Matthew 18:15

RESTORE when he repents

Luke 17:3–4

Release is always required. Reconciliation takes two.

Remember This

1. I forgive in my heart whether you repent or not.
2. I am reconciled with you when you repent.
3. And when you repent, I don't keep count.

"Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32