

# WE MUST FORGIVE OTHERS JOYFULLY

—By Elder Ephraim of Arizona—

Put up with the person who grieves you and creates temptations. Put up with him joyfully. Pray for him every day. Always try to do good to him, to commend him, to speak to him with love, and God will work His miracle and he will reform. Then our Christ will be glorified, and the devil who sets up all the stumbling-blocks will be foiled. Force yourself especially to stop criticizing and lying. Your penance is to do one prayer-rope every day for this person who hates you, so that God may enlighten him to repent, and ten more prostrations daily for one month.

If this person does something against you, overlook it, be patient. Let yourself be wronged, but do not wrong. Let yourself be slapped, but do not slap. Let yourself be criticized, but do not criticize. When you do all this, then the Son of God along with the Father and the Holy Spirit will dwell in your soul. Fight “the good fight” (1 Tim. 6:12). Overlook the deeds of this person, just as our Christ has overlooked your sins.

I rejoice to find out that you are compelling yourself to defeat in this way the person who harasses you so much. Yes, my child, love always conquers. Pursue love, humility, purity. Keep doing a prayer-rope for this person. Christ shall enlighten him. The devil is behind it all. When Christ drives the devil away, your brother will become like a little lamb.

You write, my child, about someone who kept grieving you, and you cursed him. No, my child, do not curse anyone, no matter how much he has harmed you. Our Christ tells us to love our enemies, so how can we speak evil? Seek forgiveness from God, and henceforth love him as your brother, regardless of whether or not you agree with him. Didn't Christ on the cross forgive His crucifiers? Then how can we do otherwise? Yes, my child, we must love everyone, regardless of whether or not they love us—that is their business.