

Let's live like this!

*The power of
forgiveness*

Flora

Three years ago, when my parents separated, I thought I would never be able to forgive my father. I was very disappointed in him – he had always been a model for me and yet now he had chosen another family instead of us. At the same time, I felt the strong need to forgive him. A few days ago, he called me and said: **"Tonight I want to take you out for dinner, just the two of us."** I was very happy!

After school I waited for a long time, but he didn't showed up. Then my phone rang. **"Hi! This is Dad. I can't make it tonight – do you want to go to breakfast tomorrow instead?"** I was so upset I just hung up on him without saying a word.

The next day was Sunday. When I went to church, I offered Jesus my suffering and found the strength to forgive my Dad.

Coming out of the church, guess who I saw? My father! He was waiting to take me for breakfast! I gave him a big smile and said Hi.

He was surprised at my greeting, because he was expecting me to be angry about what happened the day before.

But this time, after taking the step to forgive him, not only was my anger toward him gone, but I wasn't even sad anymore and I felt free to love him.

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"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ." (Eph. 2:4-5)

These words of the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians refers to the Old Testament when the Lord God appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai and told him that he will **always be merciful** toward the people.

By making himself known as "merciful," God shows that he is concerned about each and every person, just like a mother for her child. He cares for, protects, looks after, and stays close to us.



God is a merciful father, as we find symbolized in the parables, like the good shepherd and the Good Samaritan.

God shows himself to each one of us as "rich in mercy" and of "great love," ready to forgive us and give us his trust. In fact, He gave us the fullness of life through Jesus.

In every situation of sin, or suffering, or solitude, he is present with us, he comes alongside of us as we go along our way. He places his trust in us, and gives us the possibility of rising up again and starting all over again.

If God is rich in mercy and of great love, we too are called to be merciful towards others. If he loves those who are bad, who are his enemies, we too have to learn how to love those who are not lovable, even our enemies.

Living in this way we will give witness to God's love and help those we meet discover that also for them God is rich in mercy and of great love.

I'll think about when I experienced and recognized God's love for me.

**Who can I forgive today?
Who can I ask to forgive me?**

