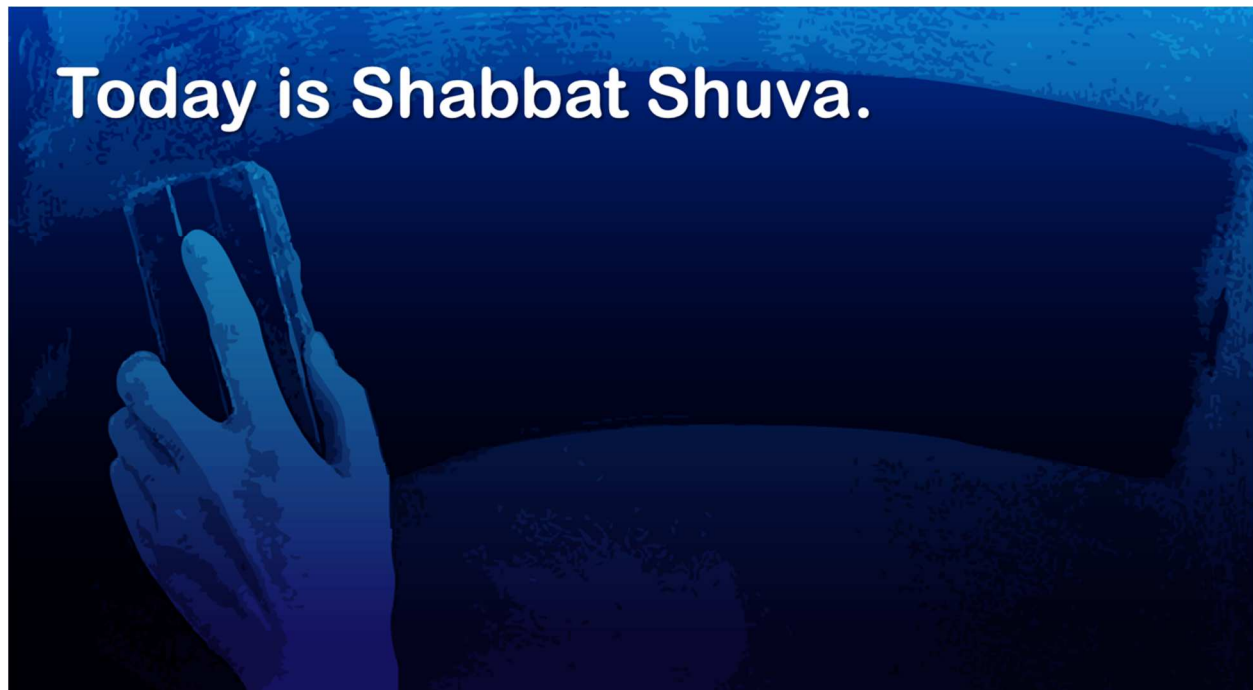


September 27, 2025
Shabbat Shuva
Total Forgiveness



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ietMH04_JZ8
0 to 1.00]



We are in the High Holidays, also known as Days of Awe

Yamim Noraim יָמִים נֹרָאִים

consist of the period of ten days known also as the
Ten Days of Repentance

עשרת ימי תשובה

Why?: bookends Rosh HaShanah & Yom Kippur

[Biblical basis]

Rosh Hashanah's complex calling

- No work or commercial transactions
- Gathering
- Remember, implying giving account!
- Loud sounds, implying trumpet of judgement!
- Sweet foods ⇨ G-d's mercy

Yom Kippur

- Remembering the Temple atonement: visualizing Messiah!
- Afflicting one's soul: Fasting
- Forgiveness: visualizing Messiah!
- Confession
- Intercession

This Shabbat, today, in the midst of the Ten Days of Repentance

עשרת ימי תשובה

today, is called Shabbat **Shuvah**. So the ancient rabbis picked the Haftarah that begins:

Hos 14:2 שׁוּבָה יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ

Return, O Israel, to Adoni your God"

שוב Shuv: The root of שׁוּבָה (return) and תשובה (repentance). It means not only to return back, but also to return upward — to our Source.

Traditionally, on this day every step of teshuvah — every whisper, every prayer, every thought of return — is received in heaven with joy.

We've heard the blast of the shofar, calling us to repentance!

[Called me!]

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev taught: On Shabbat Shuvah, even the smallest movement toward G-d is magnified a thousandfold. The gates of return are wide open, and Hashem's love is especially close.

It is a Shabbat of beginnings, of returning, of courage, and of prayer.

[\[http://www.ulpanor.com/\]](http://www.ulpanor.com/)

What is repentance?

Turning to a right relationship with G-d and with people

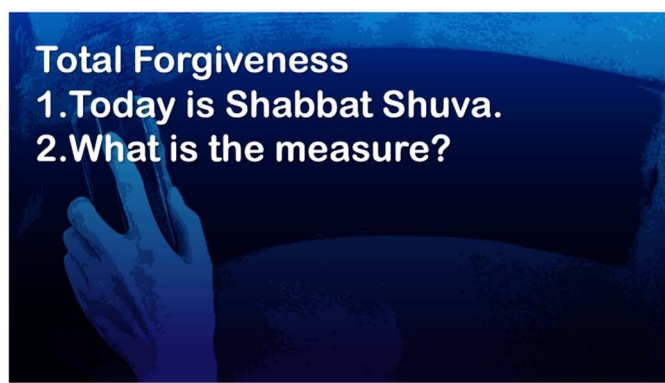
- Changing our ways to serve G-d.
- Changing our ways to be in right standing with people
 1. Forgiving and
 2. Being forgiven

[Today's focus...]

What is repentance?

Turning to a right relationship with G-d and with people

- Changing our ways to serve G-d.
- Changing our ways to be in right standing with people
 1. **Forgiving** and
 2. Being forgiven



How long is an inch?

In 1324, the legal definition of the inch was set out in a statute of Edward II of England, defining it as "three grains of barley, dry and round, placed end to end, lengthwise"

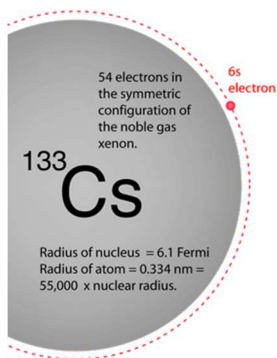
[<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inch>

Inaccurate standard leads to discrepancies and confusion and arguments]

How long is a second?

Before 1956, 1/86,400 of the time the earth takes to spin around on its own axis and see the sun again each day.

But because the moon's gravity and the tides are slowing down the earth's spin, this is not a stable quantity.



In 1967 the official definition of the second became 9,192,631,770 vibrations of a Cesium-133 atom.

How long is a meter?

The basic unit of length in the metric system; it was originally planned so that the circumference of the Earth would be measured at about forty million meters.

Today, the meter is defined to be the distance light travels in

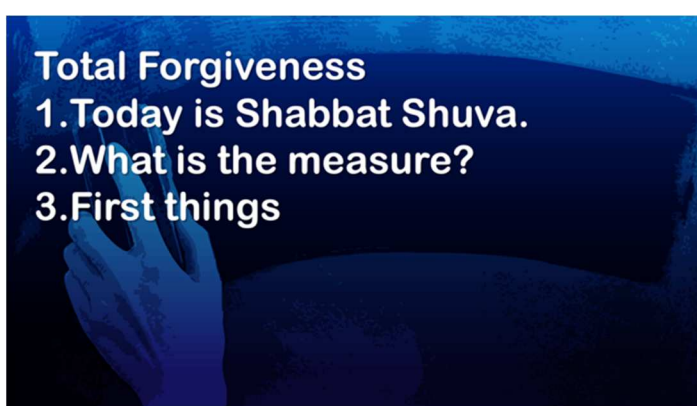
$\frac{1}{299,792,458}$ seconds.

[Measured by the Cesium clock]

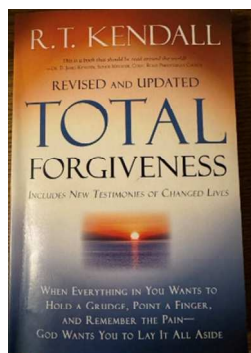
How do we measure the repentance of forgiveness?

Here is the measuring standard.

Matit 6.12,14-45 Forgive us what we have done wrong, **as we too have forgiven** those who have wronged us...For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will not forgive yours.



- A few weeks ago I spoke on problem solving: Mt 18 resolving wounds
- Then I did a related message on an unoffendable spirit: immunity (too strong) resistance to wounds
- Today: dealing with unresolved wounds



According to the author there has been a real dearth on this subject matter till 1984 Lewis Smedes!

How to forgive

Two types of forgiveness, according to the Messiah

1. Unconditional / volitional

Mark 11.25 **And when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive your offenses.**

[Simple, direct, just do it. No conditions. No exceptions. Otherwise, prayer can

be a vendetta. Easter prayers about the Jews who caused the death of Yeshua ישוע → violence.

Easter was a dangerous time for European Jews.

Islamic prayers.]

2. Conditional / Reconciliation

Lk 17.3-4 **If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. Also, if seven times in one day he sins against you, and seven times he comes to you and says, 'I repent,' you are to forgive him."**

1. Unconditional / volitional levels:

- Detached forgiveness: reduction in negative feeling
- Limited forgiveness: decrease in emotional intensity
- Total forgiveness: true inner release

2. Unconditional Forgiveness Considerations: Remember, revisit, situations of wounding.

- Like to rewind it and correct it.
- Like to redo it and WIN, hurt back, destroy, say the right response.
- If only I hadn't let him do that, say that...
- A sin against you is a sort of debt.
- Emotionally impossible to release because there's a balance owed.
- Only way to release is to know that Yeshua ישוע was there to pay it, to restore the comfort, the outrage, the indignity. He paid the debt. Receive the satisfaction from Him and release the party.
- He's your Father, Comforter, Mentor, Coach, Counselor

Mtt 18.15 **"Moreover, if your brother commits a sin against you, go and show him his fault -- but privately, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have *won back your brother*. [Reconciliation, peace, party time, joy, shalom]**

Impossible situations

- Unfaithful spouse
- Abusive parent
- Absent parent
- Clergy abuse
- Rapists
- Murderers
- Former friends
- Abusers of family members

[Kendall p 12]

Despite all the above:

Yeshua ^{Lk 23.33-34} When they came to the place called The Skull, they nailed him to a stake; and they nailed the criminals to stakes, one on the right and one on the left. Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them; they don't understand what they are doing."

[He could have said, "I forgive you." Asking Father is grander gesture. Asked Father not to take revenge or punish. Also, beyond His own [human] strength.

Was He praying about soldiers, or Sanhedrin?

Likely some of these present on Shavuot following, Act 2, outpouring of the Ruakh in Jerusalem!]

RT Kendall [RT] fierce contention in congregation. He prayed certain people be forgiven.

G "Do you mean that I should bless and prosper them?" "What if I should bless you in proportion to how you want me to bless and forgive them?"

[RT yielded, but motive partially self protection.

Story p 17 TV series depicting believers who had forgiven. Producer: "I can take or leave a sermon, but can't ignore this. Something happening in their lives." Ro 5.8

P 18 Muslim MBB

Semi-natural explanation p 19]

Mandate to forgive.

Eph 4.32 **Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you.**

Mandate to forgive.

Col 3.13 **Bear with one another; if anyone has a complaint against someone else, forgive him. Indeed, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.**

How has Adoni Yeshua forgiven you?

T'hilim/Ps 103.10-12 **He has not treated us as our sins deserve or paid us back for our offenses, because his mercy toward those who fear him is as far above earth as heaven. He has removed our sins from us as far as the east is from the west.**

[RT yielded, but motive partially self protection.

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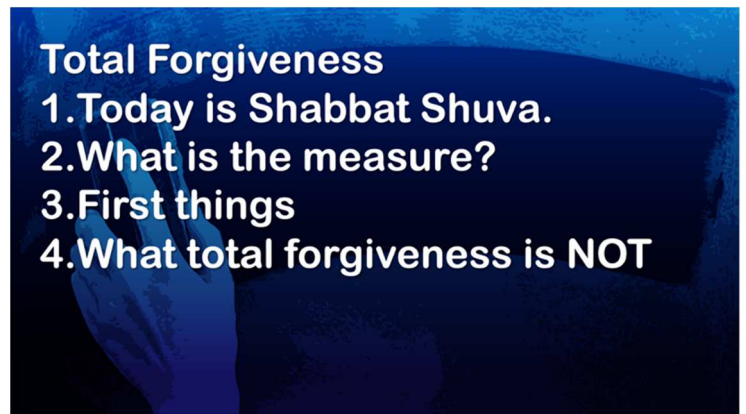
Semi-natural explanation p 19]

Can a person forgive and also report a crime?

Absolutely yes!

Total forgiveness ≠ closing our eyes to those who will continue to harm others.

Not easy for a victim to be both a courtroom witness and a forgiver.



He did not hate his opponents.

[<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/donald-trump-where-i-disagree-with-charlie-kirk-is-i-hate-my-opponents-i-dont-want-the-best-for-them/vi-AA1N11TI>]

What total forgiveness is not

1. **Not approval of sin.** ^{Yn 8.9-11} [Her accusers] began to leave, one by one, the older ones first, until he was left alone, with the woman still there. Standing up, Yeshua said to her, “Where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” Yeshua said, “Neither do I condemn you. Now go, and don’t sin any more.”

2. Forgiveness is **NOT excusing what they did.**

^{Nu 14.19} Forgive now the guiltiness of this people in accordance with the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You have pardoned this people from Egypt until now!”

[Moshe doesn’t minimize, but appeals to G-d’s Khesed.]

3. Forgiveness is **NOT justifying**: never minimize wrong, make it look right.

4. Forgiveness is **not pardoning**. Pardoning is judicial by the courts. Forgiveness is internal.

[P 25 ME man raped a woman. She was asked to testify. Forgiven in her spirit, but did testify. He sent back.]

5. Forgiveness is **NOT reconciliation**. That takes two parties. ^{2 Cor 5.20} We are ambassadors of the Messiah; in effect, God is making his appeal through us. What we do is appeal on behalf of the Messiah, "Be reconciled to God!"

6. Forgiveness is **NOT denying** what they did.

Psychological repression or denial --> dissociated personality.

7. Forgiveness is **NOT blindness to what happened**. Pretend it didn't happen.

8. Forgiveness is **NOT forgetting**. G-d chooses NOT to remember.

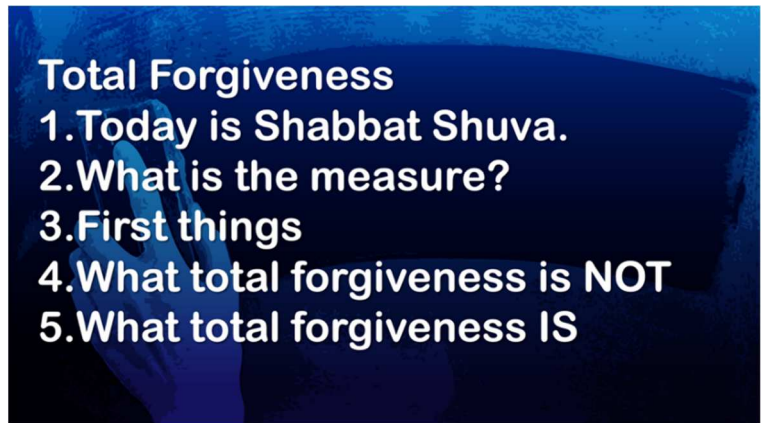
We may not be able to forget, we can choose to not remember.

9. Forgiveness is **NOT refusing to take the wrong seriously**. "What's wrong?" "Nothing!" Sin is serious.

[Homer Simpson cartoon I could have shown.]

10. **Pretending we are not hurt**.

^{Yn 18.23} Yeshua answered him, "If I said something wrong, state publicly what was wrong; but if I was right, why are you hitting me?" Yet could forgive.



Total forgiveness IS

1 Being aware of what someone has done, and **releasing** it. We kiss revenge goodbye. Justice still done.

2. Keeping no record of wrongs. Total forgiveness is a **choice**.

3. **Refusal to punish**. ^{1 Yn 4.8} Perfect love drives out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and the one who fears has not been made perfect in love. Supernatural. Corrie ten Boom

^{Ro 12.19-20} **Never seeks revenge**, instead, leave that to God's anger; for in the Tanakh it is written, "Adoni says, "Vengeance is my responsibility; I will repay." On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For by doing this, you will heap **fiery coals** [of shame] on his head."

[Wesley: Melting coals of fiery love.]

4. Forgiveness is **not telling** what they did, more than those involved with the problem and the solution. Or therapy. Not broadcast.

5. Forgiveness is being **merciful**. ^{Mt 5.7} "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy."

Ps 130.3-4 If You, Adoni, kept a record of iniquities— my Lord, who could stand? For with You there is forgiveness, so You may be feared.

[Forgiveness gives hope]

Grace is getting what we don't deserve. Mercy is NOT getting what we do deserve.

6. **Graciousness** = forbearance, tolerance, not severe judging. In politics to win is not enough, you have to make your opponent look bad. NOT so forgiving.

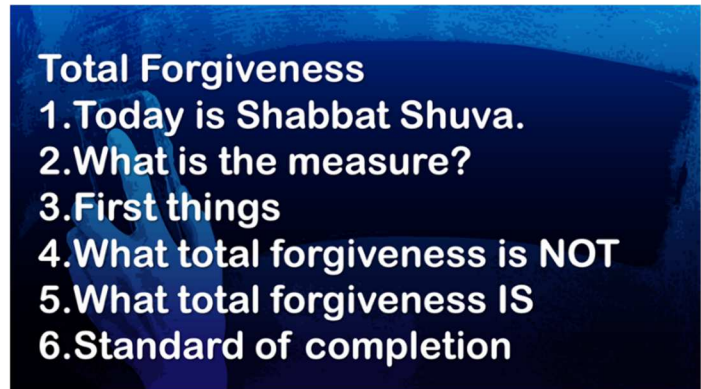
7. Forgiveness IS a **condition of the heart**.^{Mt 12.34-35} For the mouth speaks what overflows from the heart. The good person brings forth good things from his store of good, and the evil person brings forth evil things from his store of evil.

Confidence toward G-d is key. Most of the people we need to forgive do not believe they did anything wrong. "90%"

8. **Absence of bitterness**. Relinquishing bitterness is an open invitation to the Holy Spirit. Does NOT mean coffee weekly.

9. **Forgiving G-d**. Allowing G-d to be G-d. Sovereign of our lives. His judgement with evil and suffering. Choice of your parents.

10. **Forgiving ourselves**. Lasting joy.



How to know if we've totally forgiven

Joseph paradigm

- Wounded by brothers
- Wounded by Potiphar's wife.
- Wounded by Potiphar's simplicity.
- Wounded by jail mate.

[Time p 55:

Finally in a government position of almost absolute authority. Tested brothers' current integrity. At his total mercy...]

Ber/Gen 45.1-5 At last Yosef could no longer control his feelings in front of his attendants and cried, "Get everybody away from me!" So, no one else was with him when Yosef revealed to his brothers who he was. He wept aloud, and the Egyptians heard, and Pharaoh's household heard.

[One of greatest, most dramatic scenes in the Bible. Movie stuff.

Privacy for honor.

Not rage, but weeping]

Yosef said to his brothers, “I am Yosef! Is it true that my father is still alive?” His brothers couldn’t answer him, they were so dumbfounded at seeing him. Yosef said to his brothers,
[Not berate them. Not punish them. Not humiliate them in front of Egyptians or Pharaoh.]

Ber/Gen 45.1-5 “Please! Come closer.” And they came closer. He said, “I am Yosef, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But don’t be sad that you sold me into slavery here or angry at yourselves, because it was God who sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

[Come close. Not denial, yet not vindictive. Saw G-d’s hand. Told them what to say to Yaakov Jacob Dad

*No rage, no punishment, no berating, no denial, blessing and future hope.
 That is the pattern of forgiveness!!]*



The crowning moment of the entire five-hour event was when Erika Kirk uttered the words that will remain immortal across the centuries. After citing the words of Yeshua on the cross about forgiving those who executed Him, for they know not what they do, Erika whispered those words that touched the entire cosmos: “That man, that young man, I forgive him.” You could see the indescribable pain in her words. It was not easy to proclaim. Yet there was resolve. She was going to say them. Rather, she declared them.

Spiritually minded people know what happened in that moment. She broke the power of Satan. Forgiveness does that. It blocks Satan and releases the blessings of God.

Spiritually dull persons or spiritually immature people may not understand this. But biblically grounded persons can “see into the heavenlies, where the spiritual battle is taking place for our nation, and our families.” With those words, she crippled the demonic forces. She was not going to participate in a life of bitterness.

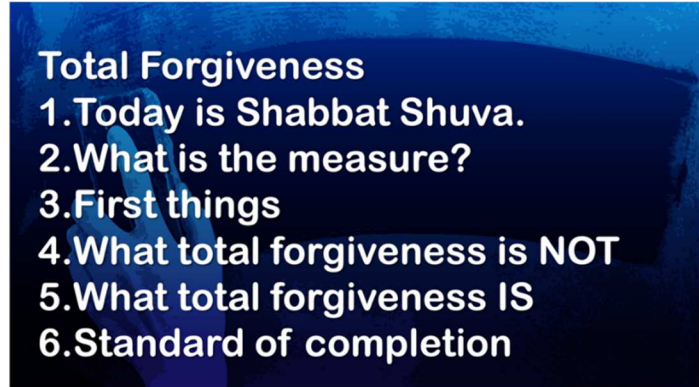
By her act of forgiveness, Erika broke free from the devil’s bait: to be offended. She was free! And by declaring it, she helped set millions of others free as well.

That one sentence will be remembered 100 years from now. And beyond. Every news report carried this as a headline. Historians will tell and retell this moment. And well they should. She majestically lived out the gospel, in the most difficult times imaginable. And in the years to come, we will see that freedom of forgiveness envelope her children, as they are raised with her biblically-grounded maturity.

[Jim Garlow

“When you say, ‘Here I am, Lord, use me,’ God will take you up on that, and he did with Charlie,” Kirk said. His life, cut short at 31, was one of spiritual devotion, she said. “While Charlie died far too early, he was also ready to die,” Erika Kirk explained. “There was nothing he was putting off. He left this world without regrets.”

The crowd responded with a standing ovation. “I forgive him because it was what Christ did and is what Charlie would do,” she said. “The answer to hate is not hate. The answer, we know from the Gospel, is love and always love — love for our enemies and love for those who persecute us.”
[<https://mycharisma.com/news/the-early-viewership-numbers-from-charlie-kirks-memorial-are-in-likely-the-most-viewed-gospel-presentation-ever/>]



Do you know that you are forgiven by G-d?
Is there anyone whom you need to totally, fully forgive?