Forgiveness—Granting It and Maintaining It*

The challenge to maintain biblical forgiveness will be waged in the minds of those who grant forgiveness. The three major tests in this regard are Memory, Reminder, and Imagination (M.R.I.).

**M**emories related to forgiven sins can resurface and be significant hindrances for believers to maintain biblical forgiveness. These memories often focus on painful situations that were accompanied by overwhelming emotions.

**R**eminders of past sins can be triggered by situations in everyday life, and their appearances are often unexpected.

**I**magination often deals with unknown or imagined possible sin(s) that are mentally linked to known forgiven sins. Imagination of this type can create disturbing emotions.

A believer in Christ should immediately respond to any M.R.I. test by:

- praying for all persons, including one’s self, who are impacted by known forgiven sin(s)
- giving thanks for personal salvation and for the Lord’s continuing help to grow in Christ
- rejoicing that every test/temptation is common and can be overcome by relying on the Lord and His Word
- trusting in the Lord instead of yielding to anxiety and worry
- redirecting thoughts from anxiety to matters that bring honor to the Lord
- moving one’s attention away from sinful situations and back to on-going growth in Christ

These responses to M.R.I. challenges are indicated in the following verses, any of which can be memorized. See *The Easy Way to Memorize Scripture.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18,** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Philippians 1:6,** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.