

Forgive – Greek Word

Greek Word Pronunciation: *ah-FEE-ay-mee*

Strong's Number: 863

Goodrich/Kohlenberger Number: 918

Key Verse: “Your sins have been **forgiven** you for His name's sake.” [1 John 2:12](#)

Two Greek words are used to translate the word “forgive.” The first is **charizomai**, from the word **charis**, which means “grace.” This word appears 27 times in New Testament. It means “to bestow a favor unconditionally; to show one’s self gracious, kind, benevolent; or to grant forgiveness, to pardon.” Believers are to **forgive** each other the way Christ has **forgiven** us, as found in [Ephesians 4:32](#), [Colossians 2:13](#) and [3:13](#). **Charizomai** indicates being gracious toward someone.

By contrast, our word, **aphiemi**, means “to send away.” It is used approximately 150 times in the New Testament, and is found almost exclusively in the gospels.

The variety of translations are found in:

- [1 Corinthians 7:11](#), “husband should not **divorce** his wife”
- [Matthew 4:11](#), “the devil **left** Him”
- [Matthew 13:30](#), “**allow** both to grow together”
- [Matthew 27:50](#), “Jesus **yielded** up His Spirit”
- [Mark 7:8](#), “**neglecting** the commandment of God”

Forgive – Greek Word (Continued)

- [Mark 15:37](#), “Jesus **uttered** a loud cry”; and
- [Romans 1:27](#), “men **abandoned** natural function of the woman.”

When the word is used of **forgiving**, it is in regard to forgiveness of

- debts [[Matthew 6:12](#)]
- trespasses [[Matthew 6:14](#)]
- blasphemies [[Matthew 12:31](#)]
- lawless deeds [[Romans 4:7](#)]
- wickedness [[Acts 8:22](#)] and
- sins.

There are approximately 10 places in scripture where sins are forgiven. In [Luke 5:20](#), and the key verse, [1 John 2:12](#), “your sins have been **forgiven** you,” the verb is in the perfect tense, indicating that our sins have been put away from us permanently. Our sins were put away at the cross, with the *abiding result* that they are never more remembered against us.