

Copyright © Simon G. Harris 2014
Scripture quotations taken from the HOLY
BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International
Bible Society. Used by permission

healing

@simongharris
@burlington_ips
#Godheals



Healing the past

@simongharris
@burlington_ips
#godheals

Unforgiveness ...

is the most damaging wrong
reaction of all

Ephesians 4:31

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger,
brawling and slander, along with every form of
malice.

Unforgiveness ...

is the most damaging wrong
reaction of all

Matthew 6:6, 14-15

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
... For if you forgive other people when they sin
against you, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others
their sins, your Father will not forgive your
sins.



Forgiveness ...

revealed

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Forgiveness ...

1. is NOT saying it doesn't matter

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Forgiveness ...

2. is NOT ignoring justice and responsibility

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Forgiveness ...

3. is NOT the same as reconciliation

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Forgiveness ...

4. is personal

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Forgiveness ...

5. is a process

Matthew 18:21

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Forgiveness ...

6. is a matter of the heart

Matthew 18:34

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Revenge ...

1. making someone pay

Judges 15:3

Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them

Revenge ...

2. justifies wrong behaviour

Judges 15:7

Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you."

Revenge ...

3. always escalates

Judges 15:11

Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me."

Revenge ...

4. is never complete

Judges 15:15

Finding a fresh jaw-bone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

Revenge ...

5. never works

Judges 15:15

Finding a fresh jaw-bone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.

The forgiveness test

Can I pray unreserved
blessing on this person?

Matthew 5:44

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for
those who persecute you,

Unforgiveness

1. makes you sick

Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Unforgiveness

2. gives Satan a foothold

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive – I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Unforgiveness

3. sets ourselves up against God

Romans 12:17-19

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Where do I start?

1. Receive God's forgiveness

Matthew 18:28-30

... 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow-servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

Where do I start?

2. Choose forgiveness

Matthew 18:28

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow-servants who owed him a hundred denarii.

Where do I start

3. recognise the torture of unforgiveness

Matthew 18:31 -34

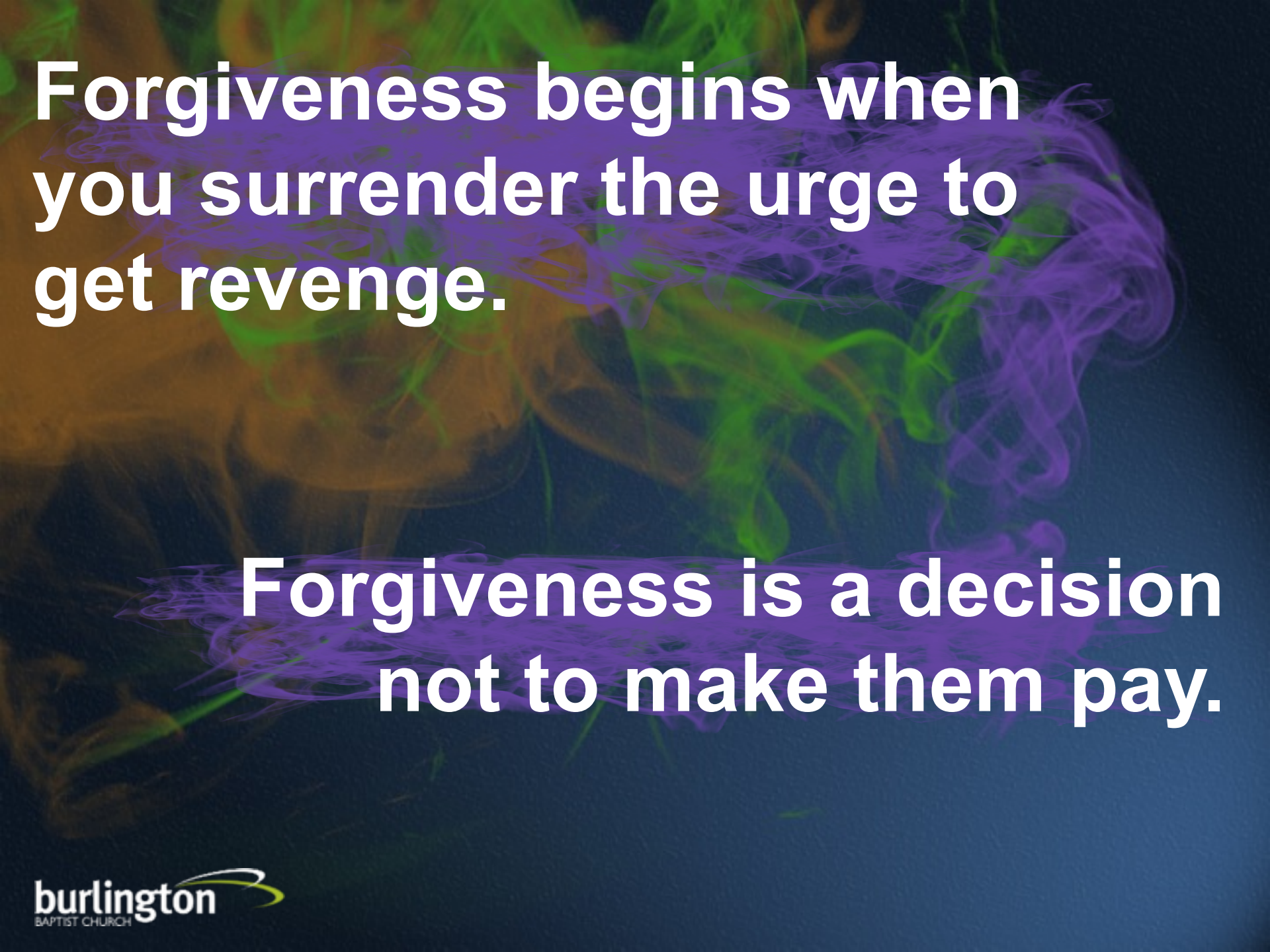
When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged ...Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

Do you know the truth?

Jesus has paid

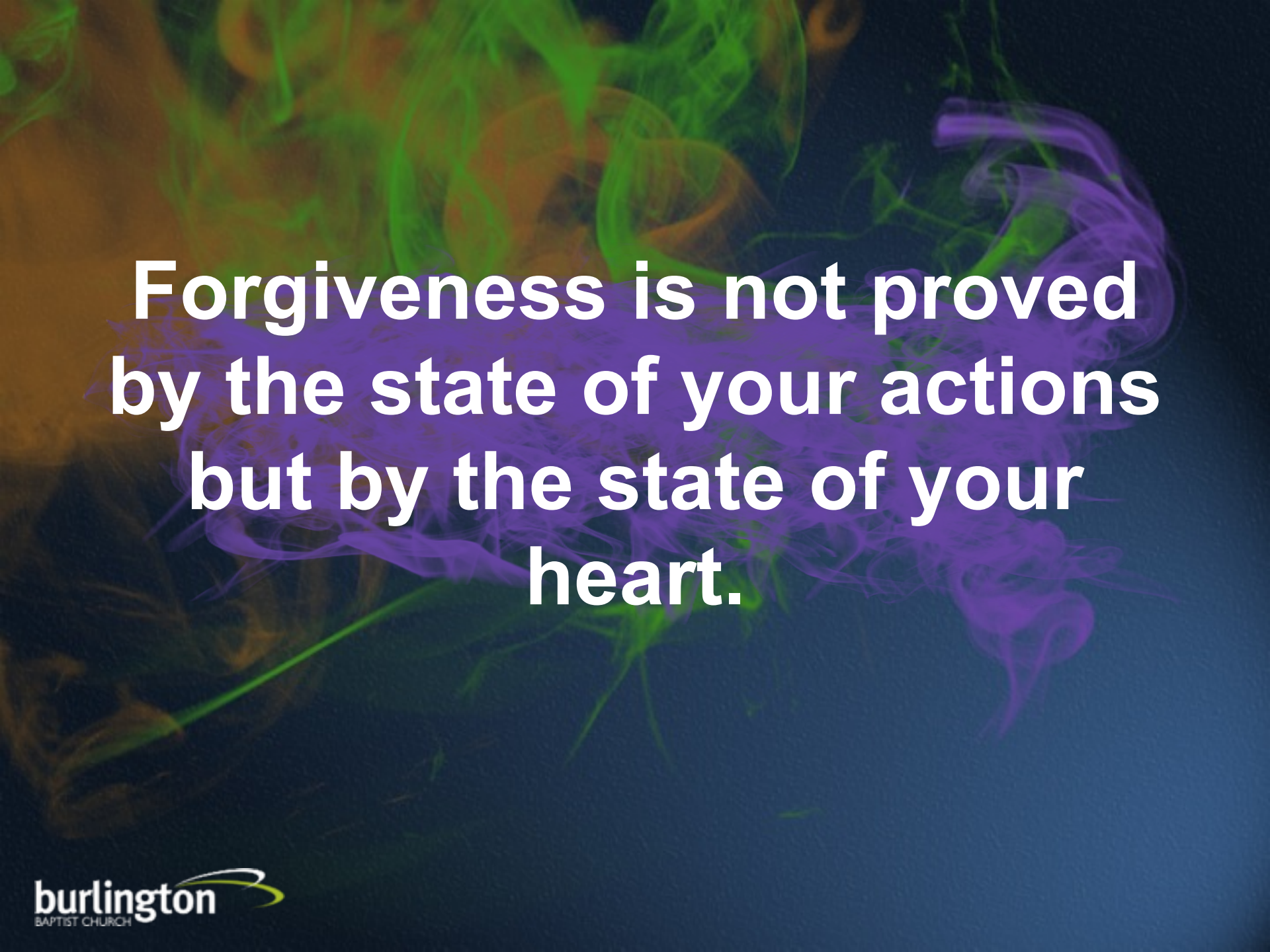
Matthew 18:24

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

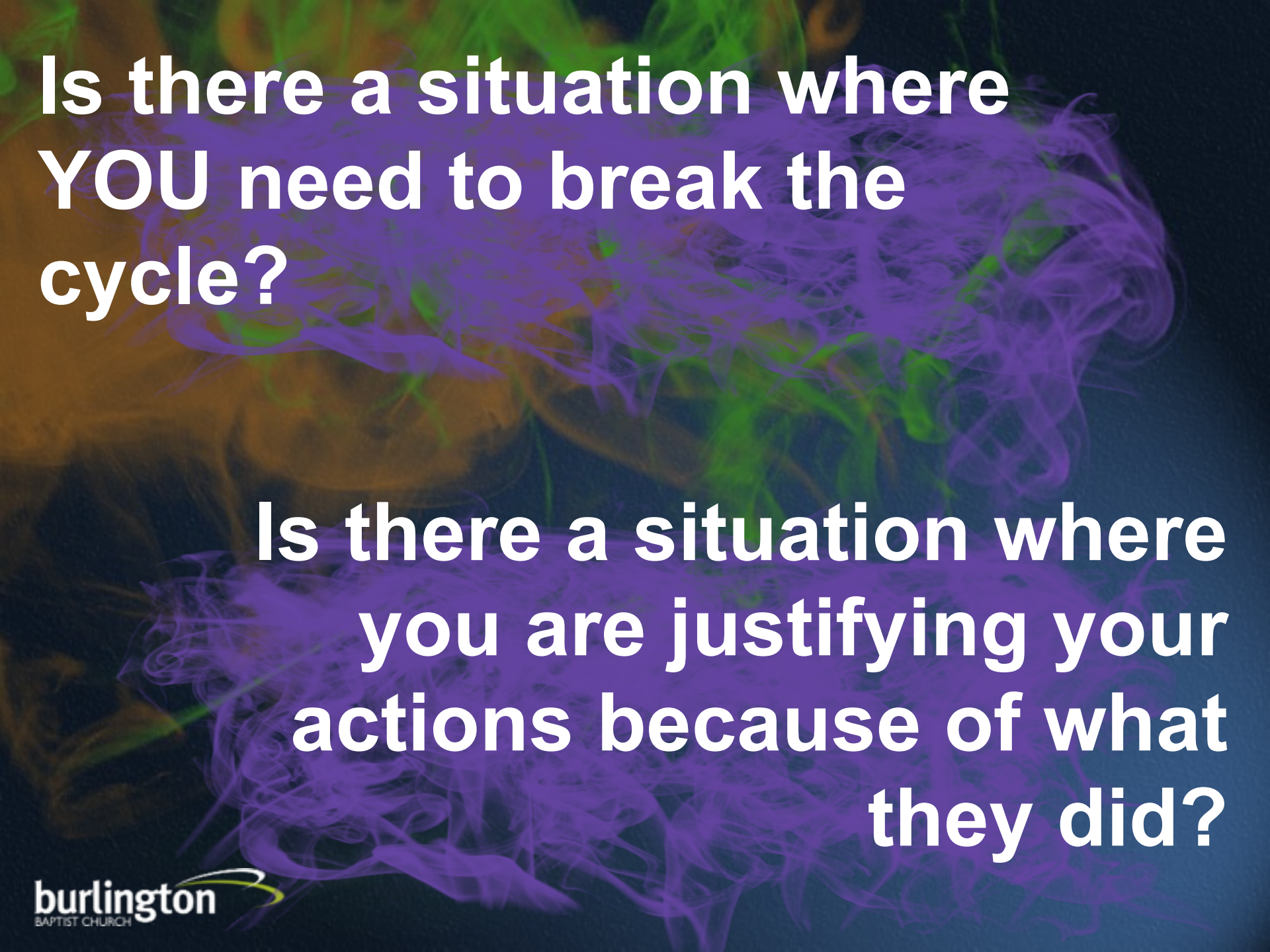


**Forgiveness begins when
you surrender the urge to
get revenge.**

**Forgiveness is a decision
not to make them pay.**



**Forgiveness is not proved
by the state of your actions
but by the state of your
heart.**



**Is there a situation where
YOU need to break the
cycle?**

**Is there a situation where
you are justifying your
actions because of what
they did?**

