



By Jeanne Sheffield Estrada, Th.D.

ARTICLE 8: The Restoration Place

So here we are at The Restoration Place, your final destination, Bridge Parents! You have been on quite a long and in-depth journey crossing over our bridge to freedom with Jesus me holding your hand throughout this series of articles. I said in the very beginning that these steps were not for sissies who would take a few steps and then go back and get off the bridge. If you have followed all these steps to completion, CONGRATULATIONS! I AM SO PROUD OF YOU!!

We all know that this has not been just an ordinary bridge to cross. No sir, this bridge was designed by God for those of you who have the guts to get rid of all the built up garbage inside your hearts and who have gone through this intense process to completion where you have finally freed your captive and you finally freed yourself.

Let's Retrace Our Steps.

We can wrap it all up in a capsule when you first began with your own self-reliance and independence. Then you realized your need for dependence upon God. The next step called your spirit to submit to God's guidance and direction. My goal has been for you to become a transformed person with a renewed mind who has learned how to be a calmer, more self-in-charge person. A person with a deeper sense of who you are and much stronger than before. Isn't it amazing how God can take a situation that is hurtful, even abusive and turn it completely around for our good? Look who has been your teacher! Jesus, Himself!

Just as we've repeated Apostle Paul's words before, we must always remember to persevere and press on to reach the goal that God has for us heavenward in Christ Jesus. We must remember to love our brother and see him through the eyes of Christ. Then we will replace old thought patterns and images of vengeance with new thoughts of mercy and forgiveness. Gradually, our practice of forgiving becomes second nature and it becomes our "new nature."

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Picture this image in your mind: Forgiveness is the completion of a puzzle that's been unsolved, and it is my deepest hope and prayer that all of you have crossed over your bridge to freedom! Yes, there may be other bridges to cross along your journey in life, but when you come to them may you always embrace another with forgiveness. For when you do, you will surely know that your forgiveness was taken notice by your Father in heaven.

It has been such a JOY and privilege to bring you all these many steps to forgiveness over these last eight weeks. We have covered so much and it would mean so much to me to hear what you have experienced crossing our bridge. It would be fun to know if you finished all the steps arriving at The Restoration Place or even if you haven't yet completed all the steps, I would love to know what you have experienced. You can write me at: **Pastors@NotesOnLife.org**.

I encourage you to print these articles located at NotesOnLife.org/forgiveness and to always keep them with you as you journey through life. You might want to make copies to share with others who may have issues of unforgiveness to encourage them. Let them know that the Lord Jesus can help them cross over their bridge to freedom, too where they can find "The Restoration Place." May every step forward you take in life be blessed, and may Jesus continue walking side by side with you making sure you know you are never alone.

Dr. Jeanne