



Questions:

1. Where do you think the authority to forgive comes from?
2. What stood out for you from Psalm 51:1-4 and 10-12?
3. Eric suggests that real repentance can require a complete change of thinking to bring us into better alignment with God's reality. How is that different than a traditional moralistic concept of sin and forgiveness?
4. Bruce says that refusal to forgive someone who has repented can create problems in our own relationship with God. What are some of those problems? Why do you think it is so important for us to forgive someone who repents?
5. How have you seen the process of forgiveness work in your life, in your community and in the world?

EPISODE TITLE: "By Whose Authority?"

Forgiveness, Episode 1

Featured Guest: Bruce Van Blair

Bruce's interests keep him going in several different directions including the startup of a new house church (now streamed live from our Countryside Chapel), and most recently joining the Countryside community to begin our new ministry "Converging Paths;" a partnership venture with the BTS Center in Bangor, Maine, exploring our vocational callings in our everyday workplaces, and our leadership in faith communities. Bruce has written a wide collection of sermons as well as several books, including *The Believer's Road*, and *In A Nutshell*.

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Psalm 51: 1-4, 10-12

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.