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Thursday, June 18, 2015 POSTANDCOURIER.COM

**THURSDAY!**  
ATF Gun Shop & Range specializes in tracking before the hunt to clean for fun, speed & self defense

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# Church attack kills 9

## Manhunt on for suspect after 'hate crime' shooting at Emanuel AME

A row of nine portrait photos of the victims of the church attack. The photos are arranged in two rows: the top row has four photos and the bottom row has five photos. Each photo is framed with an orange border. The victims are of various ages and ethnicities, all appearing to be members of the Emanuel AME church.



5:30 [WDBW.com](#) SPORTS FINAL Shows 73% Sat/Sun, Jan 21, 12:5

# DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

**'We forgive you. Hate won't win'**  
Victims' families show killer amazing grace  
PLEA FOR YOUR SOUL IS PROOF THEY LIVED IN LOVE — PAGES 2,3,4,5,6,7

# TIME

On the night of June 17, a gunman opened fire in the basement of a church in Charleston. Nine people died. Five survived.

## What It Takes to Forgive a Killer

SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES TELL THEIR STORIES



*“You took something very precious from me. I will never talk to her again. I will never, ever hold her again. But I forgive you. God have mercy on your soul. You hurt me. You hurt a lot of people, but I forgive you.”*  
-Nadine Collier



*“For me, I am a work in progress and I acknowledge that I’m very angry. But we have no room for hate. We have to forgive. I pray God on your soul.”*

*-Bethane Middleton-Brown*



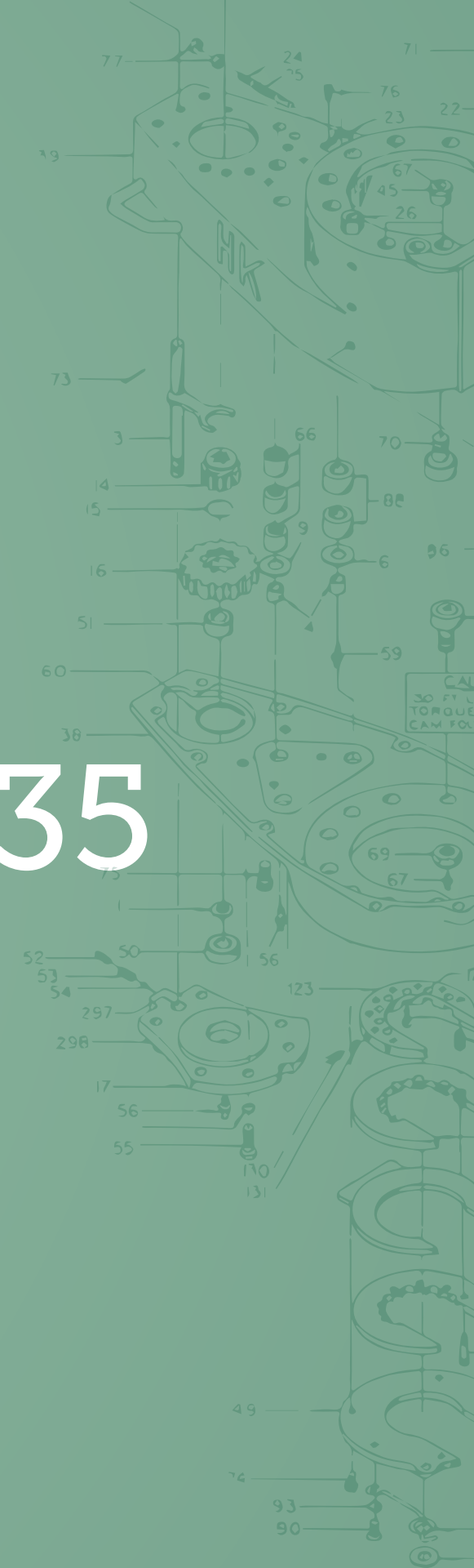
# How The Kingdom of God Works

*BREATHE FORGIVENESS AND LIVE*



# Matthew 18:23-35

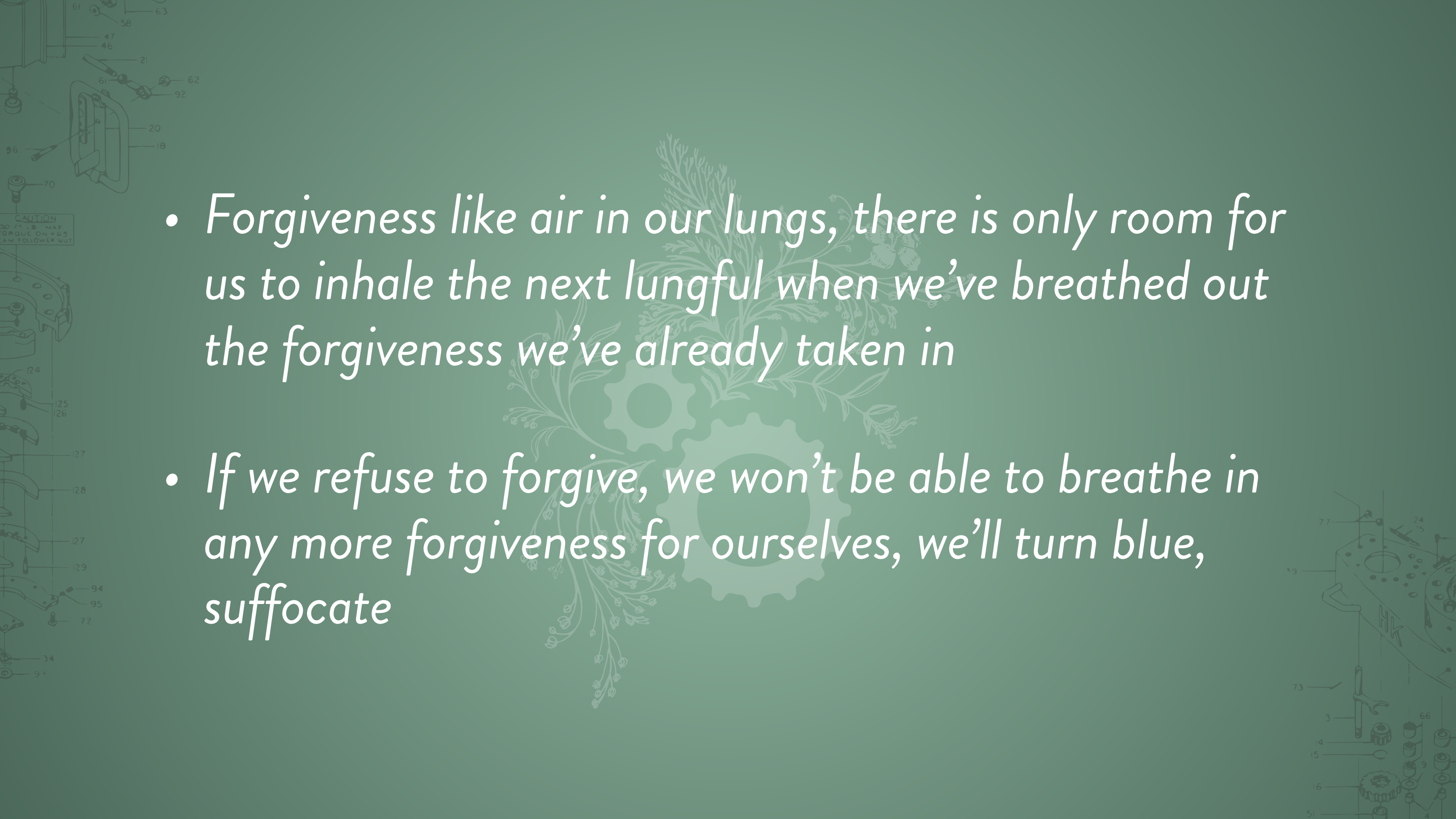
Page 688







*Do we forgive? What's going on in our lives?*

- 
- *Forgiveness like air in our lungs, there is only room for us to inhale the next lungful when we've breathed out the forgiveness we've already taken in*
  - *If we refuse to forgive, we won't be able to breathe in any more forgiveness for ourselves, we'll turn blue, suffocate*



# I. Real Forgiveness, Forgiveness In God's Kingdom Is ...

...a cancelled debt

<sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt  
and let him go.



# I. Real Forgiveness, Forgiveness In God's Kingdom Is ...

...a cancelled debt

...unlimited

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”



# I. Real Forgiveness, Forgiveness In God's Kingdom Is ...

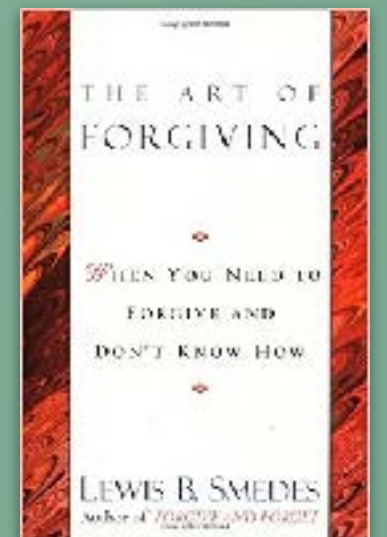
...a cancelled debt

...unlimited

...not the same as reconciliation

- It takes one person to forgive; it takes two to be reconciled
- Forgiving happens inside the wounded person; reconciliation happens in a relationship between people
- We can forgive a person who never says they are sorry; we cannot be truly reconciled unless they are honestly sorry
- We can forgive even if we do not trust the person who wronged us not to wrong us again; reconciliation can happen only if we can trust the person who wronged us not to wrong us again
- Forgiving has no strings attached; reconciliation has several strings attached

## Lewis Smedes - The Art of Forgiving



<sup>15</sup>“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup>But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup>If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

**Matthew 18:15-17**





## II. How To Breathe In, Experience, God's Forgiveness

- A. See the size of our debt
- B. See what God gave up
- C. Receive God's gift of forgiveness



<sup>26</sup>“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’

**Matthew 18:26**





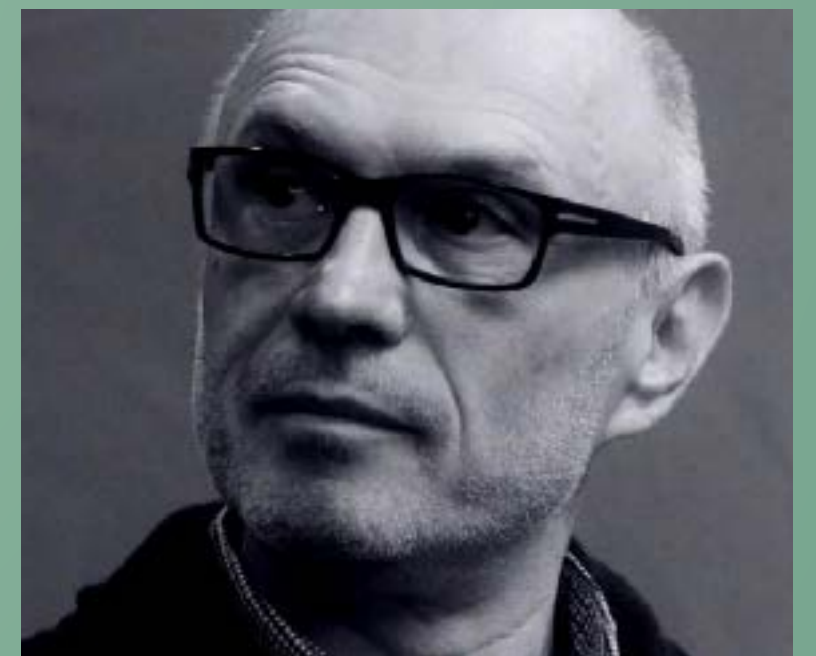
### III. How To Breathe Out, Extend, God's Forgiveness

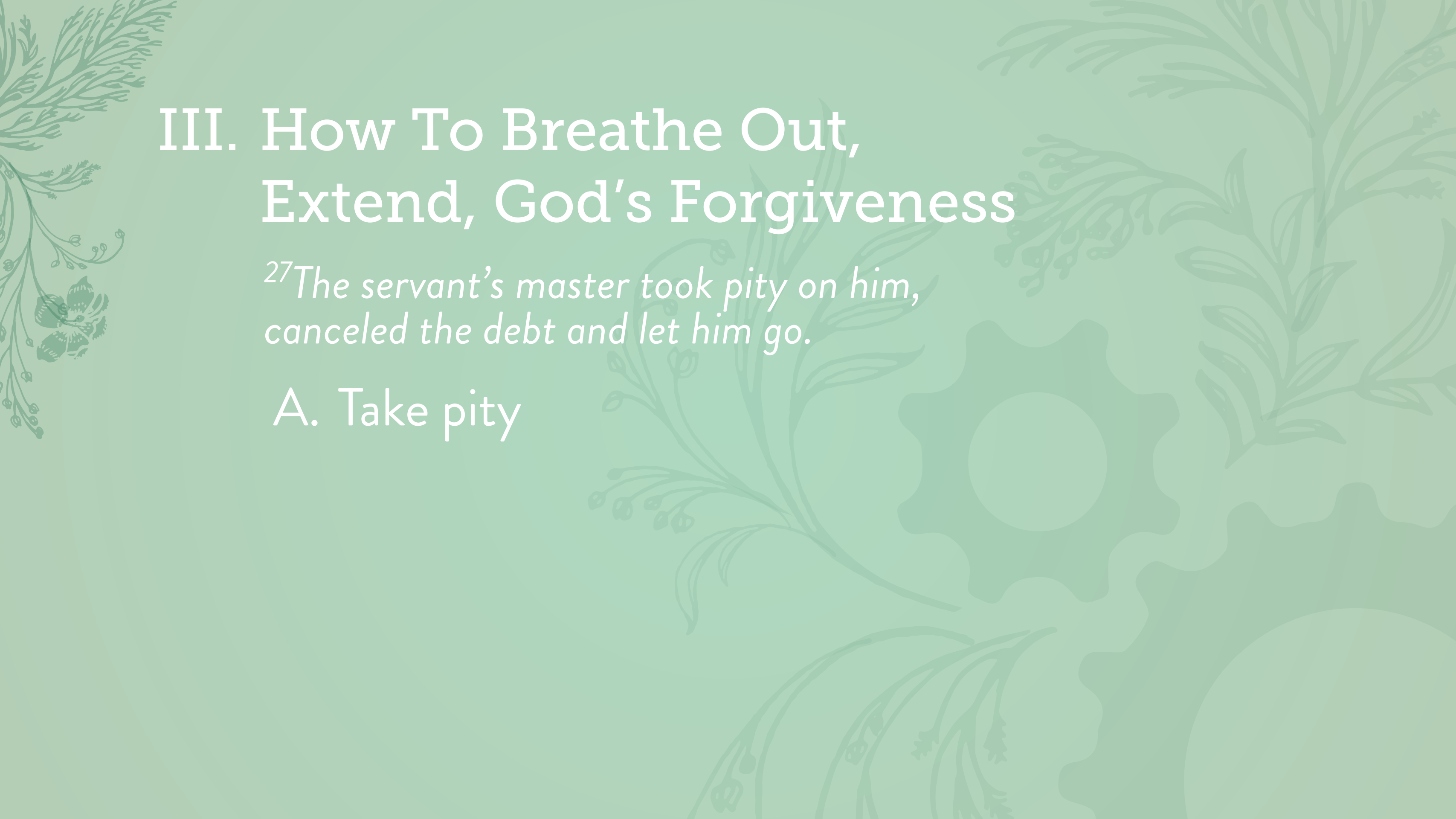
*<sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him,  
canceled the debt and let him go.*

A. Take pity

Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as I exclude myself from the community of sinners.

Miroslav Volf

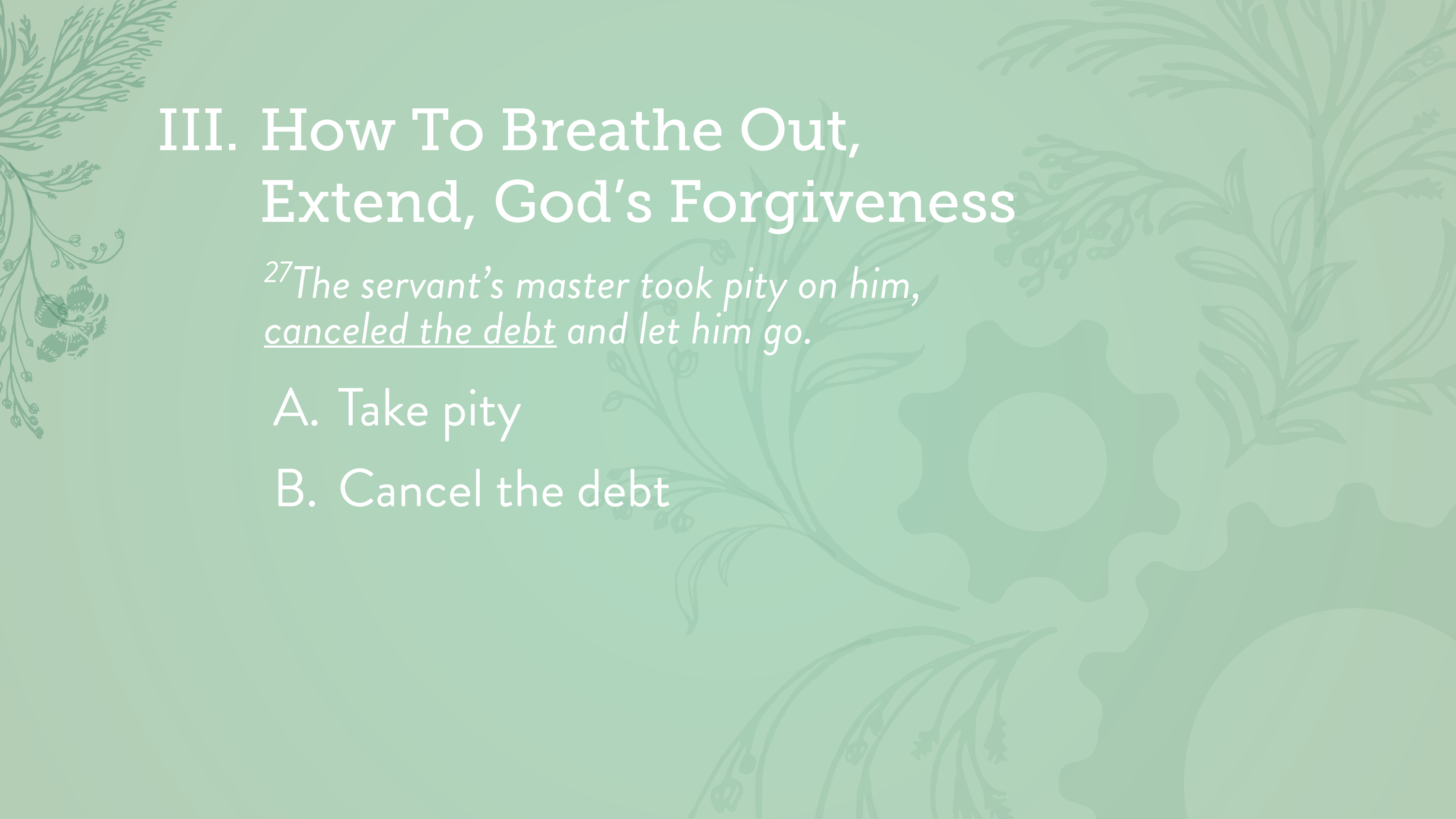




### III. How To Breathe Out, Extend, God's Forgiveness

*<sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him,  
canceled the debt and let him go.*

A. Take pity



### III. How To Breathe Out, Extend, God's Forgiveness


*<sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him,  
canceled the debt and let him go.*

- A. Take pity
- B. Cancel the debt




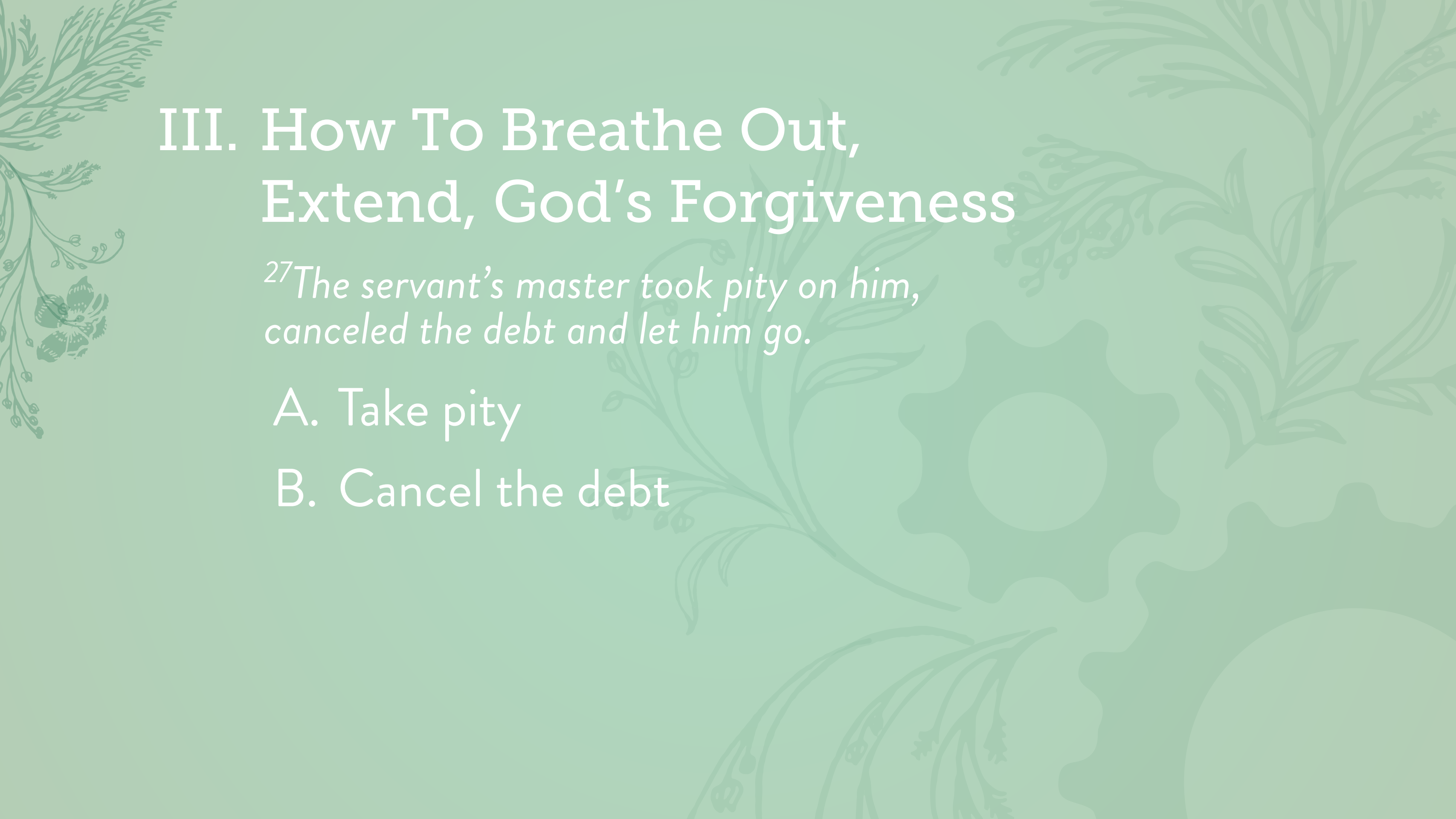
Corrie ten Boom





When he came up to me as the church was emptying, he said, “How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein. To think that, as you say, he has washed away my sins!” His hand was thrust out to shake mine, but my hand stayed at my side. Angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me. I tried to smile. I struggled to raise my hand. I could not, and I silently prayed, “Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness.” As I took his hand, the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder, along my arm, and through my hand a current seemed to pass, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.





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### III. How To Breathe Out, Extend, God's Forgiveness

*<sup>27</sup>The servant's master took pity on him,  
canceled the debt and let him go.*

- A. Take pity
- B. Cancel the debt
- C. Let them go