

"I Forgive You Because..."

I forgive you....because I was one lost in the darkness, fighting to see the shining light. I was afraid and had no platform to express myself, not wanting to fail, so I never took that extra step.

I forgive you because time has healed my pain. I was once in your shoes, seeking for forgiveness. Forgiving is not forgetting. However, it's the first step in your healing process.

I forgive you, The System, for incarcerating me at a young age without evaluating my circumstance. Even though I've lost 15 years of my life, I've gained so much knowledge, and understanding of life adversity has introduced me to success.

I forgive myself because I didn't understand who I was when darkness was upon me. Life is an ongoing journey. There will be ups and downs. Learn from your mistakes. One of the greatest things life has given us is experience. Learn to use it.

Wayne G
New Jersey

Thank You FOR READING!

Below is a question to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use it as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

Wayne writes about being afraid and having "no platform to express myself" because of "not wanting to fail." Do you recognize the fear that Wayne describes here?

Can you identify ways, and times, when your fear of expressing yourself has blocked your own growth – including, maybe, your ability to forgive?

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

**Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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