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englisch

## **Forgive! Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**

(Matthew 18:21)

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### **Start again!**

Dear friends of the word,

the temperature had risen to over 40 degrees Celsius. A small international Band was preparing the set for the final concert. The musical ability of the band members varied significantly, and this was also true for aspects such as punctuality and reliability. This presented a real challenge for the highly involved band leader and that evening he told me: “One time during the day I was so exhausted and disappointed that I teared up. I lived the motto ‘Start again’ throughout the day. One tune was not fully rehearsed. – Start again! A band member arrived late for the rehearsal. – Start again! A music stand fell over and disrupted the rehearsal. Start again! And now I feel like I’ve given everything, yet I still don’t know if the concert will be a success. Start again!”

To let go of disappointments and condemnation, of hurtful experiences and wrongdoings of people is everything but easy! It’s like high level sport for our soul. How must Peter have felt. A rough fellow, he was working with his brother Andrew, and with James and John. The latter two had acquired a nickname. They were called the ‘Sons of thunder’. Imagine how it must have been aboard the fishing boats on lake Gennesaret. Some harsh and hurtful words must have been spoken. At some point Peter had had enough and he asked Jesus: “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother? Up to seven times?” That’s a lot already! Then he heard Jesus’ answer: “Not seven times, but seventy-seven times!” According to Jesus forgiveness is a ‘never-ending-story’! Jesus says: Don’t stop forgiving!

If you live like this, day after day, you are a true ambassador of peace. Peace will be given a chance constantly! Let’s have the courage to never stop to **Start again!**

For the OnWordTeam

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