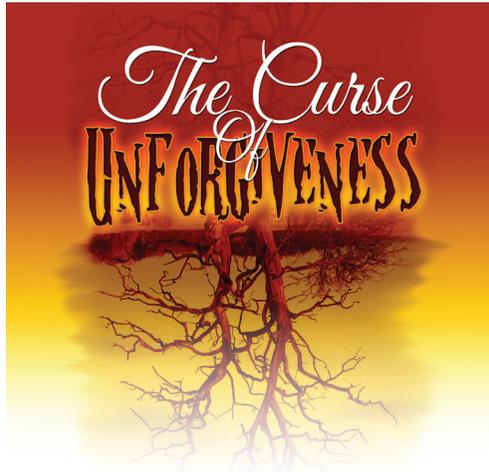


The Curse of Unforgiveness



by David Eells



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Scriptures are taken from the *American Standard Version (ASV)* because of its faithfulness to the ancient manuscripts and Bible Numerics, a system designed by God for proving authenticity.

We have departed from the *ASV* only in the name Jehovah and Lord Jehovah which we replaced with Lord and Lord God, respectively. Neither represents the original YHWH but Lord is less confusing to many and we did not want this to distract from the teaching.

Numerics is a system designed into the Bible by God to prove authenticity. The Greeks and Hebrews used their letters for numbers. Therefore, the whole Bible is also written in numbers which show perfect patterns as long as the God-inspired original words are not departed from. It mathematically proves the original text and where it has been added to or taken away from. The Numeric English New Testament (NENT) is based on the numeric pattern and is quoted from when necessary.

We desire to make this book free on our part because Jesus said, “Freely you have received, freely give,” but the business of publishing does not lend itself to that. We can say that any profits made from this book will go toward promoting the message of the Kingdom of God and not to any personal, fleshly gain. Free copies of the book are made available through the generous donations of His faithful servants and can be requested at **www.ubm1.org/free**.

We dedicate this book to the great multitude of Christians who are suffering curses of many kinds, due to unforgiveness in their heart. We pray this book will open their eyes so they receive deliverance from their tormentors, according to our Lord's warning: ***(Mat.18:32) Then his lord called him unto him, and saith to him, Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me: (33) shouldst not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee? (34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.***

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Books of the Bible - Abbreviation List

Old Testament

Gen.	Genesis
Exo.	Exodus
Lev.	Leviticus
Num.	Numbers
Deu.	Deuteronomy
Jos.	Joshua
Jdg.	Judges
Rth.	Ruth
1Sa.	1 Samuel
2Sa.	2 Samuel
1Ki.	1 Kings
2Ki.	2 Kings
1Ch.	1 Chronicles
2Ch.	2 Chronicles
Ezr.	Ezra
Neh.	Nehemiah
Est.	Esther
Job.	Job
Psa.	Psalms
Pro.	Proverbs
Ecc.	Ecclesiastes
Son.	The Song of Solomon
Isa.	Isaiah
Jer.	Jeremiah
Lam.	Lamentations
Eze.	Ezekiel
Dan.	Daniel
Hos.	Hosea
Joe.	Joel
Amo.	Amos
Oba.	Obadiah
Jon.	Jonah
Mic.	Micah
Nah.	Nahum
Hab.	Habakkuk

Zep.	Zephaniah
Hag.	Haggai
Zec.	Zechariah
Mal.	Malachi

New Testament

Mat.	Matthew
Mar.	Mark
Luk.	Luke
Joh.	John
Act.	Acts
Rom.	Romans
1Co.	1 Corinthians
2Co.	2 Corinthians
Gal.	Galatians
Eph.	Ephesians
Php.	Philippians
Col.	Colossians
1Th.	1 Thessalonians
2Th.	2 Thessalonians
1Ti.	1 Timothy
2Ti.	2 Timothy
Tit.	Titus
Phm.	Philemon
Heb.	Hebrews
Jas.	James
1Pe.	1 Peter
2Pe.	2 Peter
1Jn.	1 John
2Jn.	2 John
3Jn.	3 John
Jud.	Jude
Rev.	Revelation

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CHAPTER ONE

We already know that we need faith in order to receive God's benefits, faith to receive His healings, faith to receive His deliverances, faith to receive His provision, faith to receive His salvation and so on. Well, there is something I think that's just as important as faith because this thing I am talking about will block you from receiving any of that. It's the curse of unforgiveness, which brings the curse of the Bible listed in Deuteronomy 28 upon you. Unforgiveness was promised of Jesus to do that (Matthew 18:21-35). Holding on to unforgiveness is a very big problem and a major reason why people don't receive what they need from God.

Unforgiveness comes in many forms and can manifest as a critical spirit, or bitterness, or wrath, or even irritation. Because unforgiveness can manifest in so many ways, quite often we might not even recognize it and the Lord has to bring us into places where we will stop and think about it. And then we have to confess it and renounce it because it will keep us from receiving anything from God. As a matter of fact, according to the Word of God itself, it will even keep you from receiving forgiveness from God. ***(Mat.6:14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*** That's a very dangerous place to be in. If you are not forgiven, then you are in big trouble. I've told people that and they deny it, but they're denying the Word of God. They don't realize that if you are not forgiving, you are lost. I don't care what the "once saved always saved" people believe; it's totally

unbiblical. The Lord has to get unforgiveness out of us because that can be hindering you from receiving a healing or it can keep you from having faith, etc.

I knew this sister who had a wonderful revelation that I hope will jar some of your thinking, especially if you have been waiting for something from God for a long time without receiving an answer, or if you feel that there's something that is between you and God, or if you don't have the relationship that you used to have. I pray that the Lord will use this to benefit you. **(Pro.3:12) For whom the Lord loveth he reproveth, Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.** Amen. She told us that she'd had a dream in which she was shown an empty grave and heard the voice of God warning her that she was going to die. That morning when she got up, she could feel a lump on the left side of her neck and had severe pain coming from her left jugular vein. She knew it wasn't a sprained neck because she could turn her head without any problem. Then her entire left side also started cramping and there was pain in the joints of her left side, with a "pins-and-needles" feeling. She says that she became fearful, thinking she was going to die of an embolism or thrombosis.

Now, during the time this was happening, she was holding feelings of anger, unforgiveness and bitterness that were directed at her university. It had been taken over by another school and the university was basically trying to extort money from their students by having them pay insurance fees to cover the possibility of the new owners "going belly-up." Those fees would allow the students to recoup any prepaid funds for classes. Well, she was in the *Accounting and Finance* program, so she questioned how the breakdown of the insurance premium was calculated.

Then the school asked her to sign what they claimed was a standard contract, but when she asked around, she learned that no such contract was ever signed by any other student, whether they had paid the insurance premium or whether they had left the insurance premium unpaid. She was also frustrated by the poor service of the new owners and how they unethically increased student fees to pay for campus remodeling. And then she learned that there was a new 7% goods and services tax students were required to pay.

But that wasn't all she was having to deal with. She told us that several relatives were intent on interfering with her life, persecuting her. She recognized that the Lord was behind this and said that she never confronted either of these individuals, whether nicely or rudely, and had never preached to them about Jesus. Anyway, they called her various names in front of other family members, told her that her mind was closed because she read the Bible and believed in God, told her that she couldn't think logically, etc., all of which she knew was untrue. Her outstanding grades proved she could think. Those same relatives were also trying to pit her family against her, but the Lord had her family take her side.

The sister said she knew that, "In God's sight, there is no such thing as any justification for anger, which snowballs to unforgiveness and then to bitterness." Yes, especially when you realize God is the sovereign God and nothing can come to us unless He wills it. He works all things together for our good, which means that whatever comes our way, comes by the express design of God. **(Joh.3:27) ... A man can receive nothing, except it have been given him from heaven.** It comes by the design of God for the purpose of creating Christ in us. The Lord makes the rules: He tells

us to forgive (Matthew 18:35) and He tells us not to judge those who are without (1 Corinthians 5:12) because people who are not born again can't walk a righteous life. They are born in sin and shapen in iniquity (Psalm 51:5) and they are at the mercy of the devil in many ways. We should pity them; we shouldn't judge them. Only God judges those who are without. If we judge them, then God will judge us (Matthew 7:1,2) because we really are nothing without Him. He has given us the grace to be something better. If He gives them the grace, then they will be better, so it really makes no sense, no spiritual sense whatsoever, to be angry with the lost, confused, frustrated world. ***(Eph.4:26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (27) neither give place to the devil. (30) And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing*** (All of these are rooted in unforgiveness. You can't have them without unforgiveness and, of course, if you have unforgiveness, you don't have God's forgiveness.), ***be put away from you, with all malice: (32) and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.***

In Matthew 18:23-35, Jesus gives the parable of the master forgiving his servant, but then his servant went out and wouldn't forgive his fellow servant's much smaller debt. When the master learned of this, he called the unforgiving servant back and put him in prison until the debt was paid. And then Jesus said, ***(Mat.18:35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.***

And God will do that; He will turn you over to the tormentors unto you have paid what is due. Many people are going through torments, sicknesses, demonic bondages, all kinds of curses, or other kinds of frustrations, just like the writer is speaking about here. In Deuteronomy 28, there is page after page of the curse listed, all because of certain sins, and the Lord sends this as a chastening in order that we will repent. **(Pro.3:12) For whom the Lord loveth he reproveth, Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.** The Lord chastens us so that we won't be partakers of the curse with the world. **(Heb.12:14) Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord.** Contrary to popular opinion, it doesn't matter that you have been a Christian, it doesn't matter that you have "accepted Jesus as your personal Savior." If you're not holy, if you refuse the Holiness of God, you will never see the Lord. That is what the Bible says. And here He is definitely talking about these things – about bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, malice – which we are to put away from us and to not let the sun go down on our wrath (Ephesians 4:26). So, we are to **(Heb.12:14) Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord: (15) looking carefully lest [there be] any man that falleth short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you,] and thereby the many be defiled.** As you know, this passage goes on to speak of Esau, who sold his birthright and it was bitterness toward his brother that caused him to do it. **(Rom.9:11) For [the children] being not yet born, neither having done anything good or bad, that the purpose of God according**

to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth, (12) it was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. (13) Even as it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.

The sister sent us an email in which she confessed anger, unforgiveness and bitterness toward her university and the relatives who were giving her problems and she requested prayer for healing. ***(Jas.5:14) Is any among you sick? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (15) and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him. (16) Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.*** Did you notice that He says they will pray the prayer of faith for the sick “and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, it shall be forgiven him”? Then He says, “Confess therefore your sins one to another.” Well, why does He say that? He says that if they pray over you, you will be healed and your sins will be forgiven. What He is saying is, if you don’t confess your sins, you will block this healing, or your deliverance, or your provision, or some demonic problem, or whatever the need is.

All of the curse is administered by the devil and his demons; they do a great job of that. Many people wonder why the Lord puts up with the devil, considering that it took only one angel in the Book of Revelation to throw him in chains and cast him into the pit. He could have done that a long time ago, you know, but the devil has a job to do and

his job is to administer the curse on those who are out from under the blood of Jesus because of their disobedience. When the devil administers the curse, if you have good sense, you go running back to Jesus and confess your sins and repent, and God delivers you. If we don't do that, we can go through so many things for years and years, while we wonder, "Why isn't God answering me?" Well, the point is, "Why aren't you answering Him?"

So, she confessed her sins and had us pray for her. The very next day, she dreamed that the Lord Jesus came into her house. **(1Jn.1:9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*** That's awesome! And so I always tell people, "Look, I want to pray for you, but I would like to have faith that God is going to answer me. And I know that if you will confess your sin, God will cleanse you and forgive you of your unrighteousness, so therefore my prayers will be answered." But as we read earlier from James, sometimes people don't confess their sins. Then they receive prayer but they don't receive healing because they won't confess their sins. Well, it's the same for any provision we need. God is our provider. If we believe the Bible, He provides everything we need but this is blocked many times because of some bitterness, some anger, some clamor, or some wrathful speaking and so forth, all of which is rooted in unforgiveness. She also saw three translucent, almost invisible, red snakes with black rings on them, which I believe were demons, spirits of infirmity, leave her house at His presence. She was fearful of the snakes and told the Lord that she had been bitten. He smiled at her and said, "I have the antidote of all snake bites!" **(1Pe.2:24) *Who his own self bare our sins in***

his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed. Next, she said Jesus touched her and from then on she was completely healed of neck pain, cramps and discomfort on the whole left side of her body, and her fear of death also was gone. All this was before she actually read the prayer email I sent. Amen! Praise the Lord! You know, when I received that email, I started commanding right then the healing to happen in the name of Jesus and, of course, I typed out an email and sent it back in response. I do that every time I receive an email like that. God is faithful! Hallelujah!

I like to pray for people who have humbled themselves because God promises to give grace to those who will humble themselves. You humble yourself, confess your sins, God sees that and He is merciful. **(1Jn.1:7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Here is the prayer I sent her: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Let us now agree, according to Matthew 18:19, 1 Peter 2:24 and Mark 11:23,24, that you are healed. I command this spirit of infirmity to loose her in Jesus’ name. And the Lord said in those verses that it will be done. Thank You, Father, in Jesus’ name. Let us praise Him for this healing.” Amen! He doesn’t have to show up in vision form or in person. He just does it. Praise the Lord!

But He needs, He wants, vessels to confess their sins. He wants other vessels to speak the Word and He will bring it to pass. **(Jas.4:2) ... Ye have not, because ye ask not. (Psa.91:15) He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him, and honor him. (16) With long life will I satisfy him, And show him my salvation.** Anyway, the moral of the story is that unforgiveness can get you killed by demons and that's the truth. They were threatening to kill her and they had plans to do it. Many other curses, many torments, many tortures of different kinds come upon people. **(Mat.18:34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due.** The Lord said He will turn you over to the tormentors until you pay for what you have done because if you don't forgive, you are not forgiven. **((Mat.6:12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** If you are not forgiven, then Jesus didn't take the penalty for your curse. You have to take it and that is where chastenings come from, folks. Chastening comes from where there is a reason that the Lord did not take the penalty. I'm not saying that chastening doesn't come sometimes so that you can exercise your faith, because God ***hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature (2Pe.1:4).*** But He sends chastening for reasons of unrepentance, too. We may be justifying something in our life, saying, "Well, that doesn't really mean that," and so on and so forth. I've had many people tell me that they didn't have any unforgiveness simply because they've been so used to their "stinking thinking" that they didn't recognize

it for what it was. We must forgive or else we will be delivered over to the tormentors, to the demons. **(Mat.18:21) Then came Peter and said to him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? until seven times? (22) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven.** Next, Jesus tells the parable of the king who forgave his servant a great debt, but that servant then would not forgive his fellow servant a much smaller debt. **((Mat.18:34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.**

So she realized that “as much as God is a good God, He does not tolerate sin. I mean, God nearly killed me for the anger and unforgiveness I held for a few weeks.” **(Heb.12:6) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, And scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. (7) It is for chastening that ye endure; God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is there whom [his] father chasteneth not? (8) But if ye are without chastening, whereof all have been made partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they indeed for a few days chastened [us] as seemed good to them; but he for [our] profit, that [we] may be partakers of his holiness. (11) All chastening seemeth for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet after-**

ward it yieldeth peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, [even the fruit] of righteousness.

And in the end the sister was grateful that the Lord corrected her so quickly. By the way, there is always a blessing in doing it God's way, walking in love. ***(1Jn.4:16) And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us. God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him.*** We have to be so forgiving to the world and to God's children because people are overtaken by the devil and they are victims of the devil. It is more appropriate and better for us to see them that way than to become angry and judgmental because many times we have done the same thing and we wanted mercy, too. So we should pray for God's mercy for them. Consequently, there is always a curse in walking out of the love of God. ***(1Jn.4:18) There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment; and he that feareth is not made perfect in love.*** You know, if you have fear, there is something wrong, there is some offense to your conscience, there is some lack of love. Just a few days later, she received an email from the university stating that they were absorbing the insurance premium. How about that? Praise the Lord! Notice God was in total control of the whole situation, even permitting them to abuse her to see what she would do. God knew she had an ability to be unforgiving toward them, so He tested her. He permitted them to be used of Him. Remember, ***(Joh.3:37) A man can receive nothing, except it have been given him from heaven.*** God is in control of everything concerning His children. So He tested her and He proved to her what

was in her. Then, when she confessed it and renounced it, God healed her. He was in complete control. He could have done this from the beginning. He didn't have to wait until this particular moment. Praise God! So that is a good testimony and a good reminder that we have to be very, very careful. All those different forms of unforgiveness, bitterness, wrath, railing and such like will keep us from having the forgiveness of God and cause us to live under the curse.

You know, many times we like to justify unforgiveness and call it something else, but the Bible helps us to understand what it really is and why God hates it so much, and why it brings a curse on us. I'd like to share another testimony here, from Malcolm in New Zealand, and we have titled it *Saved from Undiscerned Unforgiveness*. He says, "I would just like to share a brief testimony relating to the Unleavened Bread Bible Study earlier this week. My wife and I and four children have been Christians for about four years now and have been pretty much molded by God and His Word since then. I guess you might say the old-fashioned way where He leads us to Himself, slowly by our standards, but on His schedule, right on time. We have witnessed mighty works within ourselves and around us in the short time we have known the Lord. Brothers and sisters, I guess it's unknown to you guys, but all the way over here in New Zealand you also have a small family sitting in with you in your Bible studies. We have never belonged to any church. I asked, 'Lord, where do You want us to go?' and He said, 'Nowhere.' So I waited but the Lord put us onto your website and we have been your silent partners ever since. I even asked the Lord for a sign and got one. I don't trust my own mind very much concerning this.

"The last couple of weeks, we have been bombarded with

visits from family from both sides. We used to live in South Auckland, one of the main New Zealand cities, but God early on packed us up and brought us out into the country, out of Egypt, we reckoned. It is really hard for us, sometimes, being young in the Lord because we often think a certain way to act is right because the opposite was wrong. The last time family came we acted a certain way only to realize we again acted badly.” So he is lamenting how he acted when family came. There are some balances that have to come to pass there, you know; we have to think things out and apply the Word. It takes time to do that sometimes and we make mistakes. “In short, our family has been blessed by God in regard to the fruit which comes from raising our children God’s way. When all the nephews and cousins come, they almost make me crazy with their total disregard for any kind of respect for anything, including, chiefly, their own parents.” So basically their relatives were being a really bad witness to their kids and they didn’t like it.

“Now we already knew not to judge, in theory obviously, and on the surface of it, we didn’t. But underneath, my blood was boiling the whole time, like it hasn’t since God came for me. How does this relate to the previous Bible study? Well, when they all left and peace returned to our home, I spent the next two hours shamefully casting down my own family and their children, the same folk I pray for every night. I knew this was wrong, yet I poured it out anyway to my shame and caused my family to sin, too. I sat in judgment of the lost and brought myself into heavy condemnation. To this day, I can’t understand with my mind how the flesh gets pleasure and satisfaction from railing, but it does. From that moment forward, I hadn’t realized yet that I had started down a road that a Christian

doesn't belong on, a road walked in unforgiveness. I didn't realize this was bitterness and unforgiveness, but our Lord showed me, as only He is able, the error of my ways. Things in my life that had been washed away years ago began to resurface and, as the children of Israel, I waxed feeble in the face of the Lord's enemies because there was the accursed thing in the camp." I guess he's talking about the Babylonish mantle and the prospect of gain that was under Achan's tent. You can read Achan's story in Joshua 7. The Babylonish mantle is like putting on the nature and life of the wicked around us.

"I pressed on as only a man can with my arm of the flesh, only to be given the standing eight-count. Finally, as I lay down in the dark, just about to press 'Play' on the latest download of the Bible study, I cried out to God like only a baby Christian can, foolishly thinking that He was in the wrong somehow. And I said, 'Lord, I have problems that I can't see and I need to know of what to repent.' I pressed 'Play' and heard the testimony of the sister with the jugular problems and about her similar bitterness being the cause. Needless to say, the tears of honest repentance began to roll as God showed my wrong to me and stuck a big cork in my trembling, foolish mouth. I judged my own family and I was bitter and unforgiving to the Lord. Yes, the Lord. I didn't know it and I can't really explain it, but He made me understand the gravity of it in my spirit. I praise God for His goodness toward an egg like me! And bear witness that His mercy endures. Hallelujah! And what a wonderful Savior! Lots of love from New Zealand and God bless all of you." Well, amen and I agree. Thank You so much, Lord, for touching Malcolm and his family and giving us that testimony, Lord, because I'm sure there are more people out

there who need to understand that nothing can block the blessings of God like unforgiveness.

Now just what did Jesus know that helped Him to be so forgiving? What was it that Jesus understood? (**Luk.23:33**) ***And when they came unto the place which is called The skull, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. (34) And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do ...*** He understood that they didn't know what they were doing. He understood that they were in bondage and needed to be free. He made such a good mediator because He Himself had been tempted and understood what it was all about. (**Heb.2:18**) ***For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.*** If a person receives grace, that's great, but it still comes from God. And, the fact that some people haven't received that grace, made Jesus more merciful toward them.

We know that Jesus understood something else here, too. He also understood that a man can never receive anything unless it comes from Heaven (John 3:27). (**Act.4:27**) ***For of a truth in this city against thy holy Servant Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, were gathered together, (28) to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel foreordained to come to pass.*** Well, now we see very plainly that it was the Father Who crucified Jesus. It says here He used Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles and the people of Israel to do this, but it was to do whatsoever His hand and His counsel foreordained to come to pass. It was the Father Who sacrificed His Son in order that we might be delivered of the

curse that we live with every day. And, if Jesus understood that these men were simply vessels of dishonor who were being used by Satan, who was being used by God to crucify Jesus, then He understood that any rebellion against this was rebellion against God Himself.

That's something we don't often understand, that we're here to take up our cross. Jesus said, **(Luk.14:27) Who-soever doth not bear his own cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.** We're here also to take up a cross to the death of self, not necessarily the death of our body but the death of self, and God uses the vessels of dishonor around us to bring us to that place for our own good. There is no freedom in the Kingdom of Heaven like there is once self has been put to death. People around us are quite willing to help nail us to the cross and Jesus understood that. He understood there was a force behind what was going on, but that force wasn't Satan, who isn't even mentioned here. Satan is the vessel of dishonor who rules over all the vessels of dishonor. But in the Book of Job, we can see plainly that Satan didn't have a sovereign will; he couldn't do just anything he wanted to do. God Almighty in Job was the only One Who had a perfect, sovereign will. And so, from Jesus' testimony, He wanted mercy, He wanted forgiveness for these people because He understood they were just vessels of dishonor and that, because they were vessels of dishonor, they could be used to do something that was dishonorable. He knew that He was receiving this from the Father. Jesus knew that He came into this world for this purpose and that's what He told His disciples.

Looking at it in that way made it possible for Jesus to be forgiving to these people. Now if we would look at it in that

way, we could be forgiving, too. Do you think that this could be said of us: “For of a truth in this city against thy holy servant so-and-so, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, were gathered together, to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel foreordained to come to pass”? Put your name in there because Jesus said you are to take up your cross and follow Him. Oh, yes, there are a lot of obnoxious people all around us, who hate us and do all these things, but Jesus said, “Take up your cross” (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23), “turn the other cheek” (Matthew 5:39; Luke 6:29), “love your enemy” (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27), “do good to them that despitefully use you” (Luke 6:28), “resist not him that is evil” (Matthew 5:39), and so on.

All of those commands put us in a position of weakness and that’s how we take up our cross, by obedience to Jesus. ***(Luk.6:46) And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*** Am I stretching it to say the same thing is true of us? No. ***(Zec.13:7) Awake, O sword, against my shepherd*** (this is obviously the Lord speaking), ***and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered; and I will turn my hand upon the little ones.*** Well, didn’t it happen that way with His disciples after Jesus was gone? They went forth to preach the Gospel and everywhere they went they were hated and they were spit on and God did a great humbling in their life. He crucified their old flesh and He manifested His Son in them, so much so, that the people called them “Christians.” Does God still do that today? Obviously He does, so we have to put our trust in God in the circumstances around us and trust in Him to finish the good work

He started in us, too.

You'll notice from the Scriptures, quite often when people were praying for healings, bread or any need or provision from God, the very next thing that was mentioned is to make sure you forgive. **(Mat.6:11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** Why is that? It's because you're blocking your provision from God if you don't forgive. And so He says, **(Mat.6:11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** Notice, if you forgive your debtors, then your debts are forgiven. In other words, He's not talking about money debts here. He's talking about a debt of sin, a debt of offense, a debt that somebody owes you because of an offense or something you consider that they owe you because of some wrong they have done you. **(Mat.6:12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil [one]. (14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** And if you're not forgiven, then you're not entitled to grace. If you're not forgiven, then you're not actually saved.

The foundation for salvation is forgiveness. They sacrificed bulls and goats under the Old Covenant in order to obtain forgiveness and Jesus was sacrificed as the Lamb of God Who took away the sins of the world (John 1:29) in order to give us forgiveness. But here He tells us, "Okay, I forgave you. Now you forgive or you're not forgiven." Well, that's a very, very dangerous place to be. Bitterness, an-

ger, judgment, all these are also manifestations of unforgiveness and they will block any of the blessings of God from you. They'll bring a curse on you, as we'll see. Here is a similar set of verses. **(Mar.11:24) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.** Wow! That just covers every need that you could have, right? That's an awesome promise and it's true, too. We have seen many, many people receive their blessings from God from that one verse there. But again, in the very next verse, forgiveness is mentioned.

(Mar.11:25) And whensoever ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any one; that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. So we're being warned from God, once again, that having forgiveness for others is a condition for receiving any of your benefits from God.

We see pretty much the same thing in these Scriptures, also. **(Mat.18:21) Then came Peter and said to him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? until seven times? (22) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven.** In other words, on and on and on, right? Just keep on forgiving. **(Mat.18:23) Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, who would make a reckoning with his servants. (24) And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, that owed him ten thousand talents.** Now this debt we are talking about, He is applying to forgiveness. Somebody who has offended you or done you wrong in any way, or you consider that they owe you because of some evil

that they've done against you, that's what the debt is that He's talking about here. So they brought unto him a servant who owed him a great debt, and don't we all when we come to the Lord, owe him a great debt? We owe Him a great debt because we've sinned against Him; we've sinned against His Word. We're held accountable because of the evil that we've done contrary to righteousness, goodness and the Word of God. **(Mat.18:25) But forasmuch as he had not [wherewith] to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.** We were sold into bondage because of sin and the curse. And the curse not only came upon us, it came upon our family. But the Lord had a solution. **(Mat.18:26) The servant therefore fell down and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. (27) And the lord of that servant, being moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.** The Lord, through what Jesus did at the Cross, has forgiven us the debt. The debt of all of our sins was forgiven by Jesus Christ. He was the Lamb of God Who took away the sins of the world and now we are free.

We are free because of what Jesus did, unless we don't forgive other people their debts. And unforgiveness can be pretty sneaky and easy to hide from ourselves. We named that testimony by Malcolm *Saved from Undiscerned Unforgiveness* because many times we justify our unforgiveness. We consider it justified that we don't forgive because they've done something so terrible, you know, but the Lord doesn't care what it is. It all has to be forgiven. You forgive the total debt of anyone else because He forgave your total debt. How much sin can you go to Heaven with?

None. Do you want to be forgiven of some or of all of your sins? You want to be forgiven of all of your sins, obviously. **(Mat.18:28) But that servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, who owed him a hundred shillings** (which is a very, very small amount): **and he laid hold on him, and took [him] by the throat, saying, Pay what thou owest. (Mat.18:29) So his fellow-servant fell down and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee.** He's even quoting what this guy told his lord. You'd think that hearing his own words quoted would be a reminder. **(Mat.18:30) And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay that which was due.** Notice the words there: "until he should pay that which was due." That's very interesting because those words are quoted further down.

I remember a friend from years ago. He'd been Bible studying with me for a long, long time, and he had gone to many, many meetings with me all around the area. He came to study the Bible and he really loved our fellowship, but I recognized something creeping in on him. He wasn't forgiving of everybody and there were some people in our fellowship against whom he held things. Actually, when I noticed there were some things he was not forgiving them for, suddenly it spread just like a cancer or a disease and when he didn't like a certain teaching that I gave, he started holding that against me, too. He made a comment and then he didn't show up the next time. Well, it was really strange what happened to this guy. First of all, the brothers whom he wasn't forgiving didn't have anything that needed forgiving. It was just them. They weren't like him but, obviously, God has all kinds of people in His Kingdom. We have

to have total patience with one another because we're all coming from different backgrounds, but we're headed to the same place, by the grace of God, and that is Christlikeness. And there was no doubt in my mind that these brothers were headed there. There was no reason for this man to hold against them what he was holding against them. But before long something happened to this man that I thought could never happen to him because he was just too wise in the Word. He'd heard too much and he knew what it said, yet he'd latched on to some guy he respected and this guy was carrying him right back to Babylon. His doctrine was becoming very confused and he was now buying back into things he had rejected and thought were stupid. It was like after all the wisdom the Lord had given this man, now He was just taking it right out of his mind. It was amazing to me. I've seen it happen many times, but it's still amazing to me how people can understand something so good and so deep, how they can understand the real Good News but then buy back into something that comes totally out of Babylonish, dead religion. Well, that's what happened to him because of his unforgiveness toward other people. I knew that was the reason for it. ***(Mat.18:30) And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay that which was due. (31) So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were exceeding sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. (32) Then his lord called him unto him, and saith to him, Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me: (33) shouldst not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee? (34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered***

him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts. Well, the chastening you receive is not always turning you back over to foolishness after the Lord has given you great wisdom; it's not always that. He could be turning you over to a disease for chastening, or to other people for chastening, or to a demonic oppression for chastening, or to just every kind of lack and loss and curse because all that is in the hands of the tormentors to make you pay your debt. Some people don't understand that Jesus paid your debt. You don't have to pay your debt, but if you do not accept this for others, like you accept it for yourself, then you're going to have to pay your own debt of your curse. That's what it says here. That's what Jesus said would happen. And, notice, He is quoting exactly what happened to this man and his fellow-servant, "till he should pay all that was due." He cast his fellow servant into prison till he should pay that which was due. It's a quote from verse 30. What is the point here? The point is, what you mete will be measured unto you again. What you sow you will reap. He says this, ***(Mat.7:1) Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged*** (See, judgment is an outcropping of, and a fruit of, unforgiveness. And, of course, this man judged his fellow-servant unworthy of forgiveness, so God judged him unworthy of forgiveness. It was a like judgment. What you sow, you reap, right?): ***and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you.*** However you measure it out to others, it's going to be measured back to you. That's what the Lord says. ***(Mat.7:3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye,***

but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? So, you want to straighten somebody else out, you feel you're in a position to straighten somebody else out, and God says, "Well, you have a beam in your eye." In other words, don't you do that. ***(Mat.7:4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*** Basically, the Lord is saying, "If you don't forgive from your heart, if you put yourself in the position of a judge, then I will judge you." God will be unforgiving to you and you'll miss out on your Covenant right of forgiveness.

CHAPTER TWO

(Joh.6:53) ... Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have not life in yourselves. What Jesus means is we are partaking of His body, which is the bread of life. ***(Joh.6:33) For the bread of God is that which cometh down out of heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*** We are also partaking of His blood and the Bible says, ***(Lev.17:11) For the life of the flesh is in the blood.*** This is talking about Jesus' life and the Word of God. We have to partake of them and we are partaking of them as we fellowship with the Word of God and with the brethren. We are partaking of them when we repent and desire His life in us. The Spirit that's in this Word, the nature that's in this Word, this bread, is what we need to be partaking of. ***(1Co.11:26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim*** (or, "show forth") ***the Lord's death till he come.*** Well, what does that mean? I know that some people think this applies only to the Lord's Supper, but the Lord's Supper is a symbol of a much greater thing. It means that when we partake of His body and blood, His Word and His life, we show forth the Lord's death in us. We are a reflection of the Lord's death, meaning, of course, we accept that the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is being fulfilled in us. If you deny yourself and you take up your cross to follow Jesus, then you'll have His life. ***(Rom.6:5) For if we have become united with [him] in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of his resurrection.*** He is talking about manifesting the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in you.

(1Co.11:27) Wherefore whosoever shall eat the

bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner (not considering the brethren, abusing the brethren), **shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. (1Co.11:28) But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. (29) For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body** (meaning the rest of the body of Christ). **(1Co.11:30) For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and not a few sleep.** In other words, they are dead. **(1Co.11:31) But if we discerned ourselves** (or discriminated, or judged ourselves), **we should not be judged.** Don't worry about judging others; make sure that you're judging yourself so that you won't be judged. It's like he's saying, **(Mat.7:5) Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. (2Co.10:6) And being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full.** So don't worry about judging anyone else until you're mature in the Lord and you're not doing the same thing you're judging them for because that's very dangerous. Paul went on to say, **(1Co.11:32) But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.** Well, amen! We don't want to be condemned with the world, so we appreciate God spanking us, changing our mind, turning us around and pointing us in the opposite direction. That's good of the Lord but how often do we have to go through this? As often, of course, as we judge someone else, or are bitter or unforgiving toward someone else.

(Heb.12:12) Wherefore lift up the hands that

hang down, and the palsied knees; (13) and make straight paths for your feet, that that which is lame be not turned out of the way, but rather be healed. (14) Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord. “Sanctification” means “separation” and Jacob was separated from Esau, his brother, and he bore much fruit when that happened. Of course, Esau was very angry with Jacob and wanted to kill him. He didn’t realize that God Himself had pronounced this judgment. **(Rom.9:13) Even as it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.** It was God’s idea; it wasn’t just Jacob’s idea. God had moved through the vessels to get Jacob where he was and yet Esau judged Jacob, was angry with him, wanted to kill him and so on. And, of course, we need to desire “sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord.” But sanctification from what? We need sanctification, which is separation, from any kind of false judgment, bitterness, unforgiveness, anger or wrath. **(Heb.12:15) Looking carefully lest [there be] any man that falleth short of the grace of God.** Well, we don’t dare do that, do we? It is by grace that we are saved, as Ephesians 2:8 says, and we don’t dare fall short of the Grace of God, but if we don’t give grace to others, then we’re not going to get grace; that’s the whole point. **(Heb.12:15) Looking carefully lest [there be] any man that falleth short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you,] and thereby the many be defiled.** This is what happened with Esau.

Not only was Esau angry and bitter, but the Bible says that the sins of the parents are passed on to the third and fourth generation. **(Exo.34:7) Keeping lovingkind-**

ness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin; and that will by no means clear [the guilty,] visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation.

So, once again, the many were defiled. Think about it. Even today we see this same war going on between Jacob and Esau. Of course, this can happen in families, too, just as it happened in that family. ***(Heb.12:16) Lest [there be] any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one [piece of] food*** (some translations have “one mess of meat”) ***sold his own birthright.*** I call that “following after the flesh.” ***(Rom.8:13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*** Well, Esau followed after this one mess of meat and he sold his own birthright. Do Christians today sell their own birthright because they are defiled with bitterness? Yes, they do. What is our birthright? Everything that our spiritual fathers passed on to us is our birthright, yet we are going to miss out on it if we are filled with a root of bitterness. It doesn't matter if you justify it, it doesn't matter if you consider that this person deserves this; it makes no difference. The Lord said if you don't forgive, you are not forgiven (Matthew 6:14-15). If you don't give grace, you won't get grace. You're selling your birthright.

(Heb.12:17) For ye know that even when he afterward desired to inherit the blessing, he was disapproved (Some translations have “rejected.” The word in the Greek is *apodokimazo*, which means “reprobated.” This is very bad.); ***for he found no place for repent-***

ance (“a change of mind”) [*in his father,*] **though he sought it diligently with tears.** Now most translations have added in their italics, “in his father,” but that doesn’t fit and that’s not the truth. That shouldn’t be in there at all. “Change of mind” is the word “repentance.” Esau was reprobated and he couldn’t find repentance. He desired it, but he couldn’t find repentance due to a root of bitterness that had defiled him and defiled his whole family because Esau wouldn’t give grace to Jacob, who was one of God’s children, one of His chosen. Even though Esau was obviously one of the called (“Called” in Matthew 20:16 is the Greek word *kletos*, which means “invited.”), he was not going to be one of the elect. He was not going to be chosen and the reason he was not going to be chosen was because he sold his birthright through holding on to a root of bitterness. So even though, as Scripture says, he sought it diligently with tears, Esau did not find that forgiveness. He didn’t give it and so he didn’t find it. He didn’t give it and God didn’t give it to him.

How often does God connect the benefits of our inheritance from our Lord with forgiveness? We’ve seen several so far, but here’s another really good one: **(Jas.5:16) Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.** Well, obviously everybody wants healing. Some people or some religions say that this is not physical healing and only spiritual healing, but on the other side there are those who say this is physical and not spiritual. I say it’s both. The word “healing” here can be used for both physical and spiritual healings, but what he’s saying is that if we don’t confess our sins, God is not going to heal us. Whether it is physical or spiritual healing, He is not going to do it. This is one of the

conditions and one of the reasons why many people don't receive healing from God, physical or spiritual. God doesn't consider that a person is entitled to forgiveness without repentance of unforgiveness toward others. **(Jas.5:16) Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.** I have seen the most fantastic miracles for people who had not been able to receive a provision from God, a deliverance, a healing, whatever miracle they needed, until they confessed their sins. Jesus said, **(Mat.9:5) For which is easier, to say, Thy sins are forgiven; or to say, Arise, and walk? (6) But that ye may know that the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (then saith he to the sick of the palsy), Arise, and take up thy bed, and go unto thy house. (7) And he arose, and departed to his house. (8) But when the multitudes saw it, they were afraid, and glorified God, who had given such authority unto men.** Wow! Jesus is saying here that the fact that He could heal this man proved that the man was forgiven. We just read that if you confess your sins one to another, that you can be healed. Here Jesus is saying, "I am going to prove to you that we have the authority to forgive sins by healing this person." This person was forgiven his sins because he received his healing; that's the point Jesus is making. He could not have received his healing unless his sins had been forgiven.

The same is true for us if we need a healing, or if we need a deliverance, or if we need any type of provision from God. The first thing we have to do is make sure that we have God's forgiveness because forgiveness is the foundation for all the benefits of the Kingdom. And, if we don't forgive,

we don't have God's forgiveness; it's very simple. So how do we prove that we have forgiven and how do we show forgiveness? In other words, how is forgiveness manifested through us to others? And how do we show, or what do we show, to others to prove that we have forgiven them? Well, I think we can see some pretty good signs from this verse: **(Rom.12:14) Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not.** I tell you, when you're persecuted by someone, you don't really want to forgive them, do you? But, you see, we don't have any choice and it's the right thing to do, since the Lord has forgiven us such a great debt. It's the right thing for us to do to forgive everybody else their debt. Now that doesn't mean that God will forgive them because if they don't forgive us and they persecute us, He won't forgive them, but that's not our job. Our job is to forgive them because the Lord has forgiven us.

(Rom.12:15) Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep. (16) Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. In other words, don't be judges, don't put yourself in the position of the Judge, God Almighty, but instead condescend to things that are lowly. Be forgiving, and humble yourselves. **Be not wise in your own conceits. (Rom.12:17) Render to no man evil for evil ...** Obviously that's what you do when you don't forgive. You do render to men evil for evil: "What they did to me, I will do to them." You bring them back under the Law and it's "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Exodus 21:24). The old flesh rises up when somebody has done you wrong and the old flesh wants to make them pay their debt to you. But the Lord is saying that if we do that, then He will make

us pay our debt. Would you rather be spanked by the Lord or would you rather just turn the other cheek, as He commanded? He said, **(Mat.5:39) Resist not him that is evil, (Mat.5:44) Love your enemies** and **(Mat.5:39) Whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.** And if you do these things, the Father will spank them, but if you don't do these things, then He'll spank you. That's the way it goes. If someone does something to you and you do it back to them, then they already received their spanking and you can't expect God to spank them. However, you disobeyed God; therefore, He's now going to spank you.

Why does God give us this command? He gives us this command because that's what it is to go to your cross. What did Jesus do to resist His cross? He did nothing; He didn't even try to talk them out of it. Men put Him on that cross. **(Luk.23:34) And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** He understood that this was a cross that God had ordained for Him; it was not just wicked men doing wickedness. Jesus was looking through these men and seeing God on the other side, seeing God behind them because God had called Him to this cross. Jesus could have fought with them but then He would have been fighting with God. He could have been unforgiving toward them but He would have been unforgiving toward God. He could judge them but He would be judging God because the Lord said, **(Zec.13:7) Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered; and I will turn my hand upon the little ones.** And so Paul says, **(Rom.12:17) Render to no man evil**

for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men. (18) If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. (19) Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath ... Now I know some people believe that “of God” should be added in there – “wrath [of God].” But it wasn’t in the original and it’s italicized; it doesn’t belong in there. He’s talking about giving place to the wrath of others because he goes on to say, ***(Rom.12:19) ... For it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.*** So you give place unto their wrath but God will spank them. If you spank them, He doesn’t need to spank them because you just did it. If you don’t do it, you’ll be obeying Him and going to your cross. The way God tells us to do it is for you to submit to Him and He will take care of them because then they’re His problem. ***(Rom.12:20) But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.*** Now, of course, this is not a matter of vengeance by saying, “I am going to heap coals of fire upon them because I will be nice to them.” No. He’s more likely talking about the fires of conviction because when you treat somebody nice and they’ve treated you wrong, that’s the best way to convict them of their sins. If you retaliate, then they feel justified, they feel you deserved what they gave to you. If, instead, you resist not the evil and turn that over to God, give that over to God, then the Lord will take care of it. ***(Rom.12:21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*** Now that’s not a worldly principle at all. We weren’t raised that way. The world is not that way. The government is not that way. The military is not that way. That’s

because this is not a Christian country and you're just fooling yourself if you think it is. This country doesn't follow any of the principles of Christ and it never has. Nor have any of the presidents who said and say they are Christian ever followed the principles of Christ. No Christian could be the president of this country because they would throw him out and kill him, as they did Jesus. As a matter of fact, I don't know of any Christian who has lasted very long as a president of any country, although I have heard that it happened a couple of times. Once was in Guatemala when Rios Montt was elected in March 1982. He was a Spirit-filled Christian but they hated him and threw him out of office as quickly as they could. ***(Joh.15:19) If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*** If you want to be loved by the world, you're not going to be a Christian. Any famous "Christian" who is loved by the world and respected by the world is not a Christian; I don't care who he is. That's what Jesus said and I believe Jesus.

The world was created for a different purpose. They are the vessels of dishonor that God uses to crucify us and to put us on our cross, and that's why God doesn't put us in dominion over them. It's usually the other way around. The Lord doesn't usually put Christians at the top over the world; it's usually the world at the top over the Christians. God puts them in there and God takes them out. ***(Rom.13:1) Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the [powers] that be are ordained of God.*** So why does He ordain all of these pagans? Why does He ordain all the Herods, the Pilates, the Caesars, the Hitlers,

the Stalins, the Obamas? Why does God do this? He does it because we didn't come here to rule this world – yet. We came here first to die. We will rule this world if we die. If we die to self, we will rule this world because we own this world. We're joint heirs with Christ but first we have to die. No cross, no crown. That's the way it is.

You know, I once saw the headline of an article that read, "If you had Hitler in your sights, would you pull the trigger?" Just think about how many people Hitler killed. If you had Hitler in your sights, would you do it? Would you pull the trigger? Well, the Lord God said, **(Rom.12:19) *Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.*** Are you going to obey the Lord? Would you pull the trigger? Well, I pray to God I wouldn't. God can take anyone out by taking their breath at any moment. God was using Hitler. God works all things after the counsel of His Own will. Folks, the Jews have paid heavily for what they did to Jesus and His brethren. Josephus said the Romans came in there and slaughtered them because of the way they treated Jesus and His brethren. And the Jews pronounced the curse upon themselves. **(Mat.27:25) *And all the people answered and said, His blood [be] on us, and on our children.*** Does that mean that I want the Jews to suffer? No. I want the Jews to know Jesus Christ. I want the Jews to come into His Covenant. I know a remnant of them is about to do that and I'm overjoyed. I don't want to see anybody suffer and I would like for you not to suffer. That's why I am telling you, you have to forgive. The thought of many "Christians" is, "If I had Hitler in my sights, I would pull the trigger." Well, you'd be disobeying the Lord and

trying to thwart His will because He holds your very breath and Hitler's very breath in His Hands. He can take anybody out anytime He wants to – even the devil. It took only one measly angel to take the devil, bind him and cast him into the lake of fire at the end (Revelation 20:1-3).

Why didn't God do that at the beginning? It's because God had a purpose for the devil and He still has a purpose for the devil. Until that purpose is over, we need the devil, whether you believe it or not. The devil is sitting out there like a mad dog, ready to jump on anybody who gets out from under the blood of Jesus. Now that's pretty good motivation! Have you ever been whipped? Lots of times it's by the devil and what do you do when you get a whipping? You run right back to the Lord and you say, "Lord, I'm sorry! Please forgive me." The devil is out there administering the curse so people will repent and turn to God. Why did God make the curse? Why did He give the devil authority to administer it? It was so that you and I would count the high cost of low living and run to the Lord in repentance. You may think we don't need the devil but I say yes, we do; we do need the devil. He's a bad devil but he does a good job. He's like the stick a parent takes to whip their child for being bad. The child will count the cost of being bad and think twice about it the next time. Well, that stick is what the devil is. God is good. If you hit somebody with a stick, you'd say that's bad, but if you do it in order to make them repent and turn around and it saves their life, that's not bad. It all has to do with the motivation.

God is a good Father and He chastens us because He loves us and He doesn't want us to go to hell. So He uses the devil to do the chastening. God could have done away with the devil a long time ago. As I said, it took only one angel

to conquer the devil. God could have done that a long time ago but He didn't want to. We need the chastening when we get out from under the blood of Jesus. When we get out in rebellion against God, we need something to motivate us and it usually takes pain of some kind to turn us around and head us back in the other direction. God is good and He knows what we need. This world is designed to bring us to repentance and God's commands are designed to make us weak. **(2Co.12:9) And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for [my] power is made perfect in weakness.** When He tells us to resist not him that is evil, love your enemies and turn the other cheek, that's being weak; that's being weak in the face of your enemy. If we are weak, then God will take care of our enemy, just as He said He would do. **(Pro.16:7) When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.** If we want God to take care of the enemies, we have to please God and the easiest way through this world is pleasing God. Of course, we want to go through this world as sojourners, we want to pass on through and enter the Kingdom totally and perfectly, right? So God uses everything to that end, as it says. **(Rom.8:28) And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, [even] to them that are called according to [his] purpose.** That includes the devil, all the vessels of dishonor and all of those people who insult you and persecute you. That includes all of those people who come against you whom you would really love to hate. But the Lord says, "No, you can't do that. I gave you grace and I can give them grace. If I gave them grace, they would be in your place and if I didn't give you grace, you would be in their place." It's like the old say-

ing, “Walk a mile in my shoes.”

We didn't receive salvation because we were better than them. **(Eph.2:3) Among whom we also all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.** It was purely grace that God gave you, grace to turn from your sins. He doesn't give that to everybody. I don't care that there are religious folks who say otherwise, but just read Romans 9. He doesn't give that grace to everybody and if He gave it to you, thank God. If He didn't give it to somebody else, don't judge them because you can lose it just as fast as you received it. So don't judge them and don't be unforgiving toward them; pity them and pray for grace for them. Remember, **(Luk.23:34) And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** That was wisdom. That wasn't just heroics, that was wisdom. The people of this world can bring God's justice on us. Do you think we deserve anything from God? If anything, we deserve a whipping. The people of this world can demonstrate God's justice on us. In the short run, you might think, “Well, this is unjust. Why would they be doing this to me?” But think about it from God's point of view. That's the important thing. Think about it from God's point of view as to whether you deserve a whipping and not just whether that person is insulting you and speaking about you and slandering you, but, do you deserve a whipping? When God says you do, you do. It doesn't matter if, from your point of view, it's unjust. Jesus died on the cross; He took the penalty for our sins to bring justice for us, to bring mercy and grace to us. He took the penalty that we deserved and we have to take up our cross and follow Him.

CHAPTER THREE

We've been talking about forgiveness and, in particular, the curse of unforgiveness. Forgiveness is extremely important if you want to permit the Lord to walk in you, if you don't want to stumble by lacking His grace. Forgiveness is every bit as important as the faith message because God does not give grace to people who don't forgive, or to people who judge, or to people who are bitter. **(Jas.2:1)** *My brethren, hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with respect of persons.* Are you doing that? Are you holding the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord with respect of persons? James goes on to give the example of having more respect for the rich man than the poor man. Then he speaks of another form of respect of persons that's also quite common. **(Jas.2:8)** *Howbeit if ye fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: (9) but if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors.* Now, although James was speaking primarily to the 12 tribes that were of the Dispersion, as we read, **(Jas.1:1)** *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are of the Dispersion, greeting,* there is a lesson for us here, too. He's also speaking to us, even though we didn't come from the 12 tribes, because the Law was a type and a shadow of the grace of the New Covenant Testament. **(Jas.2:10)** *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point,] he is become guilty of all.* If you're seeking to be justified by something that you are doing but that somebody else isn't doing, be very, very

careful because there are things that you are not doing and they are doing. And so James says not to be a respecter of persons. As it was with those under the Law, it also is with us. **(Jas.2:11) For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou dost not commit adultery, but killest, thou art become a transgressor of the law.** So if you've transgressed in anything, then you've transgressed. If you've sinned in anything, then you have sinned. And, of course, if you are not willing to give grace to someone else when they have sinned, just remember that God doesn't have to give you grace when you sin.

Therefore James warns us, **(Jas.2:12) So speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty.** In other words, if you want to be judged by a law of liberty, be sure you judge other people by a law of liberty. Now, why are we talking about judging? It's because judging is the first thing you do when you don't forgive. You are judging this person unworthy of forgiveness when Christ already forgave you and Jesus warned us about that. **(Mat.6:14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** The Father will turn you over to the tormenters until you pay your debt to God, since you didn't think your brother was worthy of having his debt to you cancelled by receiving forgiveness from you. **(Jas.2:12) So speak** (In other words, speak it, speak this way.) **ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty.** What's the "law of liberty"? Well, he's using the Law here by way of an example. If you want to use the Law, if you demand the Law be used on

someone else, instead of giving them the same grace that the Lord offered to you, but you don't want to demand the Law be used to judge you, then you need to remember that the Lord will do the same to you; He will use the Law on you. **(Jas.2:13) For judgment [is] without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy: mercy glorieth against judgment.** What you sow, you reap, according to the universal law that the Lord has given us. **(Gal.6:7) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.** If you sow mercy and if you sow forgiveness, and you refuse to judge (as Romans 14 warns against doing), then God will do so unto you.

Now I know, and we'll talk about this later, there is a time to judge and there is a time not to forgive, and we call that "governmental unforgiveness." I'm not saying anyone else calls it that; that's just the name the Lord gave to me. But right now we're talking about personal judgment and personal unforgiveness. We're talking about how dangerous it is and how we can actually sever our own grace and ruin our own future by not forgiving other people. You can exercise faith until you are blue in the face, but if you are not forgiven because you are not forgiving, then your faith isn't going to be very strong because your heart is condemning you. **(Jas.3:14) But if ye have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth.** Faction, of course, is seeking to separate people from others, especially to separate followers after yourself, after your selfish ambition. Judgment, jealousy, faction, these are all manifestations of unforgiveness, and many forms of it, because people are tempted to lie against the truth when they're attempting to cause

division or they're jealous, and they want something that God has not given to them. But we should always wait and trust in the Lord to provide and ordain things for us, and not try to gain it ourselves. Jealousy causes people to try and obtain things through their own efforts. **(Jas.3:15) *This wisdom is not [a wisdom] that cometh down from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. (16) For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed.*** Also in the vein of judging, he tells us, **(Jas.4:11) *Speak not one against another, brethren. He that speaketh against a brother, or judgeth his brother, speaketh against the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judgest the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.***

Again, when we talk about governmental judgment or governmental forgiveness, there is a place where it is legal, but it's not legal to personally be unforgiving. It is never legal for me to judge or for you to judge; it's only legal for God to judge and, in order to exercise government in the Church, He does judge. We see through the Scriptures that He does judge and He does it through human beings, especially somebody who has His authority. **(2Co.10:6) *And being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full.*** So we see that God is going to judge through people who are mature in that particular area. He is never going to use someone who is failing to judge someone else who is failing. That would be very hypocritical and the Lord doesn't do that. Many people have made themselves judges and think they have the right not to forgive other people but, if they are usurping this position, in other words, if they're seizing and holding this position, office, or power, etc., in-

stead of God giving it to them, then they're going to bring a curse upon themselves. I guarantee it. It happens every time; they will bring a curse upon themselves. (**Jas.4:11**) ***Speak not one against another, brethren. He that speaketh against a brother, or judgeth his brother, speaketh against the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judgest the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. (12) One [only] is the lawgiver and judge, [even] he who is able to save and to destroy: but who art thou that judgest thy neighbor?*** Do you see what I'm saying here? James is saying the exact same thing. Only One has the right to judge; only the Lord has the right and He chooses through whom He will judge. Remember that Numbers 16 tells the story of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. They usurped authority from Moses and Aaron, and it brought judgment upon them. God gave authority to Moses and Aaron but He didn't give it to Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Of course, the judgment upon these people was spoken through Moses and Aaron but when it came upon them, unbelievably the people rose up and said, ***Ye have killed the people of the Lord (Num.16:41)***. They blamed Moses and Aaron, who merely spoke the judgment that cracked open the earth and swallowed the multitude of the rebellious. Can we do that? No, we can't really do that, but the Lord can do that and He can do it through whom He wants. In that instance, He chose to do it through Moses and the people thought that Moses was usurping the judgment of God, which is ridiculous. And after that, God was going to destroy the people who were judging Moses, but Moses and Aaron interceded for them. So James tells us, "One [only] is the lawgiver and judge, [even] he who is able to save and to destroy: but who art thou that judgest

thy neighbor?” We cannot take upon ourselves, personally, the right to judge; only God can judge.

The apostle Paul said, **(Rom.2:1) Wherefore thou art without excuse, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest dost practise the same things.** If you judge others, then you judge yourself. We can't judge, we can't be unforgiving, we can't be bitter, we can't be factious: we can't be bringing judgment to other people. **(Eph.4:29) Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth ... (Jas.3:8) But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] full of deadly poison.** Of course, God can tame the tongue and sometimes we learn obedience through the things we suffer. The Bible said that even about Jesus. **(Heb.5:8) Though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered.** When we suffer for speaking things we shouldn't, it motivates us to be very careful before the Lord. **(Eph.4:29) Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying** (“building up”) **as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear.** It's always legal to edify, to build up, to give grace; it's not always legal to tear down and we have to be careful that it's only the Lord Who does that. He is the Judge. It is always legal to give grace but it is not always legal to judge. **(Eph.4:30) And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice.** These are all manifestations of unforgiveness and you couldn't do any of these if you didn't have unforgiveness.

Paul is warning us and he mentions railing in Corinthians, also. **(1Co.5:11) But as it is, I wrote unto you not to keep company, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one, no not to eat.** As a sin that is worthy of separating from people, he commands us to separate from any man who is called a brother, if he is committing railing. The word for “railing” is *blasphemia*, which is the same word for “blaspheming,” and it means “to speak against.” And as we just read in James, “Speak not one against another, brethren.” **(Eph.4:31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice.** If you don’t do that, you will pay for it and usually pretty quickly. Generally, your body will start going downhill, circumstances will start going downhill, the grace of God will fly away from you, etc. **(Eph.4:32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other** (This is the key right here.), **even as God also in Christ forgave you.** There it is again. We see that so often in Scripture: if God forgave you, you have to forgive. If you don’t forgive, you’re in trouble. The Lord is telling you, “You’re in trouble.”

(Col.3:12) Put on therefore, as God’s elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering. A person who judges other people is a proud person. A person who is unforgiving is a proud person. This is a person who has put him- or herself up on a pedestal and thinks they have the right to not forgive, that they have the right to judge instead of giving that right only to God. They are sitting in the place of God. So he says that through lowliness, meek-

ness and longsuffering, we suffer long with other people's errors and problems and weaknesses, etc. **(Col.3:12) Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; (13) forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any** (Now how much does that leave out?); **even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye.** He's not talking about governmental unforgiveness because it would truly be a sin to forgive someone in a governmental situation. When it's the responsibility of an elder to judge and they don't do it, then they are sinning. When it's their responsibility not to forgive and they shirk or deny their responsibility, then they are sinning. But Paul is talking about personal forgiveness here in Colossians and we always have to give personal forgiveness every time. We always have to forgive any offense against us or we won't be forgiven, as we've already seen. **(Col.3:14) And above all these things [put on] love, which is the bond of perfectness.** Of course, if you love your brother as yourself and you are not a respecter of persons, then you're going to want to afford every right and every privilege to him that you want for yourself. If you want God to judge you according to grace and mercy, then remember you have to give that same grace and mercy to others. **(Col.3:15) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.** It's not possible to let the Word of Christ "dwell in you richly" unless you're going to be obedient to what we were just saying. The Word will not be manifested in you if you have unforgiveness. Unforgiveness blocks so many

things that God could give to you and opens up the door for so many more sins that will take over your life, that the Word will not be manifested in you.

And, by the way, Who is the Word? The Word is Jesus and He will not be manifested in you if you have unforgiveness. There are people who, because of their doctrine or theology or some kind of agnosticism, believe that they're somebody or that they're going to be somebody. But I'm telling you that if you have unforgiveness, then you can't have the Word manifested in you. It just will not happen. All of those other fruits – the bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, railing, malice – they will be manifested and not the Word. It doesn't matter what God has promised you; they won't come to pass because God's promises are conditional upon repentance and faith. ***(Col.3:16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. (17) And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*** So whatever we do, we are to do it in His Name; in other words, as representing Him. You've probably run across the saying, "What would Jesus do?" on a T-shirt or bumper sticker or bracelet. Sometimes it's only the letters, "WWJD." Well, let me tell you about John and Elizabeth Sherrill, the writers who founded the Chosen Books publishing company. They decided that they would seek every day to do what they believed the Lord would do and it changed their lives. And, of course, it would. It would change our lives if we could just remember that, walk in that and do what Jesus would do. To do everything in His

name is to do just that; that's exactly the meaning of Colossians 3:17. If we would do what Jesus would do, then the Word would be manifested in us.

What is the nature of forgiveness? We've been looking at the nature of unforgiveness, but what is the nature of forgiveness? First I'd like to say that I believe what Jesus is doing is He is helping us to understand those circumstances in which we find ourselves most likely to fall into unforgiveness. Those circumstances aren't the big curses that we think they are. We need to understand that these sometimes very wicked people who come against us and tempt us to fall into unforgiveness or bitterness or judgment, are actually a blessing. We need to understand that the Lord is sovereign and no person can come into our life without God's grace. We need to understand what He says about them. ***(Luk.6:22) Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you [from their company,] and reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for Son of man's sake.*** Well, we certainly don't think that we're being blessed when people do such things, but from God's point of view, we are. We shouldn't be so near-sighted to see only the circumstance and not what God says about the circumstance behind the scenes because what is being worked in us is for eternity. ***(Luk.6:23) Rejoice in that day*** (We sure need to remind ourselves of this because the flesh just cries out, doesn't it?), ***and leap [for joy] for behold, your reward is great in heaven*** (Can you imagine? This obnoxious person who is accosting you is actually creating a reward for you in heaven!); ***for in the same manner did their fathers unto the prophets. (24) But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your***

consolation. (25) Woe unto you, ye that are full now! for ye shall hunger. Woe [unto you,] ye that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. (26) Woe [unto you,] when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets.

Jesus said, “Woe ye that laugh now.” Yes, sometimes you weep, you mourn because of things that you go through at the hands of other people. But He said, “Woe ye that laugh now, for ye shall mourn and weep.” Things are going to be turned around, folks. We are about to be treated badly by the world as a trial, but God says, “leap [for joy] for behold, your reward is great in heaven.” The reward that God is giving is not just a breath that He calls this life; the reward that God gives lasts forever and ever. If we could really understand what He’s saying here, if we could really understand what is happening here, I believe we would leap for joy. God is true to His Word. Everything is going to be turned around soon and the world is going to be on top for a while. The world is going to be the judge and they’re going to say what goes for a while. We have authority in this life but it is not authority to escape our cross. It’s authority to heal (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 9:1-2), to raise the dead (Acts 9:40), to cast out devils (Luke 9:1-2; Mark 16:17-18), to cast down temptations (2 Corinthians 10:3-6); it’s authority to conquer the old man. It’s not an authority to escape our own cross, our own death to self.

And now Jesus is going to tell you what it really is to be a forgiving person and what the fruit of being a forgiving person is. **(Luk.6:27) But I say unto you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you.** If you let bitterness or unforgiveness rise up in your

heart, it's just not possible to obey this. **(Luk.6:28) Bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you. (29) To him that smiteth thee on the [one] cheek offer also the other; and from him that taketh away thy cloak withhold not thy coat also.** This is a forgiving person. The only person who can do this is a forgiving person, a person who is not judging. They are being obedient to the Lord and they have His grace working in them. Of course, you don't have the grace to do these things if you're unforgiving because then God withholds His grace. He gives grace only to the humble. **(Jas.4:6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore [the scripture] saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. (Luk.6:30) Give to every one that asketh thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.** In other words, He doesn't want you to judge these people. He tells us, **(1Co.5:12) For what have I to do with judging them that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within** (meaning those within the Church)? **(13) But them that are without** (outside of the Church or not in the Church) **God judgeth. (Luk.6:31) And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.** Here again is that perfect law of liberty. Giving mercy when we want mercy, sowing the very seed that we need because each seed brings forth after its own kind. If you want mercy, you sow mercy; if you want forgiveness, you sow forgiveness, etc. God will bring it back to you. **(Luk.6:32) And if ye love them that love you, what thank have ye?** Oh, it's easy to love and forgive people who love and forgive you, but what about giving love and what He is telling us to do here. **(Luk.6:32) And if ye love them that love you,**

what thank have ye? for even sinners love those that love them. There's no reward for you in doing that. ***(33) And if ye do good to them that do good to you, what thank have ye? for even sinners do the same.*** That's very true; even sinners do the same, so we have to be above that. We have to be able to do it even for the wicked and the unworthy, and God will give us grace to do this. It all comes by grace from God but we forsake our own grace if we are unforgiving.

(Luk.6:34) And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? even sinners lend to sinners, to receive again as much. (35) But love your enemies, and do [them] good, and lend, never despairing; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be sons of the Most High: for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil. I know that you want to be a son of God, not just a child of God. The manifestation of sons is what the whole world is waiting to see. ***(Rom.8:19) For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the revealing of the sons of God.*** He's telling you here how to be a son. If you don't want to do these things or if you give little esteem to these things that Jesus is saying, if you're unforgiving, then, of course, you won't have grace to do these things. And not only won't you have grace to do them, you won't want to do them. It will not be possible for you to do them. If we want to be sons of God, we have to be like His Son. And what did Jesus say? ***(Luk.23:34) Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. (35) But love your enemies, and do [them] good, and lend, never despairing; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be sons of the Most High: for he is kind to-***

ward the unthankful and evil. (36) Be ye merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (37) And judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned. Be careful that if any judgment or any condemnation is coming through you, that it's coming from God and not from you. If you have any personal feelings, if you have personal bitterness or unforgiveness toward someone, then you're not neutral and God can't use you. He can't use you as a son, as He could use His Son, because His Son was truly forgiving. ***(Luk.6:37) And judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: release, and ye shall be released.*** When you're holding people captive to their sins or, in other words, holding them accountable to their sins, it says to "release and ye shall be released." ***(Luk.6:38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.*** This is just so important for us to remember! However we give it out to others, however we sow it, that's what is going to come back to us.

We've seen how unforgiveness manifests itself in our thoughts and our actions. Forgiveness also manifests in our thoughts and our actions. Here's a good example: ***(Mat.5:38) Ye have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: (39) but I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil ...*** According to the Law, you were able to demand an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. You had the right to execute vengeance under the Law. But the Law could make

nothing perfect, and God decided that He needed a better Covenant with better promises, so He gave us the New Covenant. **(Heb.7:18) For there is a disannulling of a foregoing commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness (19) (for the law made nothing perfect), and a bringing in thereupon of a better hope, through which we draw nigh unto God. (20) And inasmuch as [it is] not without the taking of an oath (21) (for they indeed have been made priests without an oath; but he with an oath by him that saith of him, The Lord sware and will not repent himself, Thou art a priest for ever); (22) by so much also hath Jesus become the surety of a better covenant. (Mat.5:39) But I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil ...** Now this is definitely talking about humans because we're told, **(Jas.4:7) Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** We are told to resist the devil and his demons but Matthew is talking about the person, the flesh and blood, with whom we are not supposed to fight. We fight with the principalities and the powers. **(2Co.10:3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (4) (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), (5) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.**

(Mat.5:39) But I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. If you forgave

a person immediately, as you should do, then you would be able to do this and this wouldn't be a problem. If you have to overcome unforgiveness every time someone does this to you, that's a good thing, but if you have finally overcome it as a nature, you won't have any problem obeying what Jesus commanded here. The majority of the church doesn't pay much attention to these Scriptures when they read them. They would rather lean upon their own understanding and their own reasoning in order to get out of this because this is crucifixion. A person who is not really committed to Christ is not interested in crucifixion; they're interested in some kind of theology that would get them out of this, so they might say that these Scriptures are for the Millennium or something. However, in the Millennium, we are not going to be accosted by the wicked. We will be spirit beings and we will be ruling over fleshly beings who will have no ability to do anything bad to us, so these Scriptures are not for the Millennium. They're talking about the here and now. This command is for the manifestation of sonship and it can only be carried out if you're going to be forgiving. Ask the Lord to give you a forgiving heart.

(Mat.5:40) And if any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. That really is against the grain; we are really swimming upstream here to be obedient to Jesus. Unforgiveness is common. It's thought of as a worthy thing in the world but the Lord speaks very harshly against it. ***(Mat.5:41) And whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two.*** This also really goes against the grain. The flesh doesn't want to do this; there is pride there and God hates pride. Unforgiving people are prideful people because they think that they can judge and

they think they have the right to judge. **(Mat.5:42) Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.** This is totally humiliating to the old man. **(43) Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: (44) but I say unto you, Love your enemies ...** Of course, this is the total opposite of unforgiveness, judgment, bitterness, wrath and demanding your rights. **(Mat.5:44) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; (45) that ye may be sons of your Father ...** There it is again. Wow! Look at how many times the Lord connects sonship with this kind of humility in our lives. He connects sonship with the kind of humility that doesn't judge, the kind of humility that forgives. **(Mat.5:45) That ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.** He does do that, doesn't He? We wonder why God doesn't judge certain people around us; we wonder because He is so longsuffering with the wicked and vessels of dishonor (Romans 9), but He needs and uses those vessels of dishonor to try us and I'm sure for many other reasons. **(Mat.5:46) For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others]? do not even the Gentiles the same? (48) Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.** I once spoke with an elderly gentleman who said to me that perfection just isn't possible. I replied, "Well, it's not possible for us but it's certainly possible for God, if He gives us grace." Jesus commanded us

to be perfect and He wouldn't have commanded us to do anything that we're incapable of doing with His grace. It is true that we need His grace and it is true that He won't give us grace, if we're judging and unforgiving. So if we want to be perfect and manifest sonship, if we want to walk in the steps of Jesus, we have to give up personal judgment and we have to give personal forgiveness.

An awesome example of this concerns Stephen. **(Act.6:8) And Stephen, full of grace and power, wrought great wonders and signs among the people. (9) But there arose certain of them that were of the synagogue called [the synagogue] of the Libertines, and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and Asia, disputing with Stephen. (10) And they were not able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake.** Well, this is the same Stephen who was ordained to serve tables as a deacon. A deacon, of course, was not an office in the early Church; the Greek word there is *diakoneo*, which means "to be an attendant" or "to wait upon menially." A deacon was just a servant. The apostles wanted to spend more time in the Word and more time in teaching, so they ordained deacons to serve the tables. Only men who were of good report and full of the spirit of wisdom were appointed over this business. Stephen, as you know, was one of the faithful, since he was one of the ordained (Acts 6:1-7), but it seems that he soon became quite a teacher and a preacher. He excelled by the grace of God in this, so much so, that these learned Pharisees and Sadducees couldn't resist the wisdom that was coming out of him. **(Act.6:10) And they were not able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake. (11) Then they**

suborned men, who said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and [against] God. This is the same thing they did with Jesus and the same thing they will do with you, if you speak the truth. ***(2Ti.3:12) Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*** They will lie against you; they will pervert your words; they will pervert your meanings; they will gather other people against you. You will be treated just as they did here with Stephen. And it's quite a temptation to hold it against them, isn't it?

(Act.6:12) And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and seized him, and brought him into the council (some translations say "Sanhedrin"). So they brought Stephen to the religious leaders. This is the book of Acts and the Lord told me that Acts represents the second half of the Tribulation period, which is going to happen again in our day. No doubt the religious leaders who have the authority of the government behind them will persecute many who speak the truth and righteousness. And, of course, those same people will have the anointing of the Lord upon them to refute these people, just as Stephen did. ***(Act.6:13) And set up false witnesses, who said, This man ceaseth not to speak words against this holy place, and the law: (14) for we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered unto us. (15) And all that sat in the council, fastening their eyes on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. (Act.7:1) And the high priest said, Are these things so? (2) And he said, Brethren and fathers, hearken ...*** And then Stephen

went into a long speech about the history of the Jews and the history of their failures, their debaucheries and their sinning against God. **(Act.7:51) *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye.*** Now that's judging and, I would say, a little bit unforgiving, but he was filled with the Holy Spirit and what was coming out of him was coming straight from the throne, straight from God. It was God Who was doing the judging and Stephen knew that he was doing a very dangerous thing here but Stephen loved them enough to do it. He wanted them to know and he wanted them to understand. He was quite painstaking in sharing with them their history of doing the same thing that they were about to do to him because he wanted them to understand. He knew it was dangerous but he loved them enough to tell them the truth and the Lord was speaking through him. The perfect numeric pattern in the verses proves it was the Holy Spirit speaking through Stephen.

(Act.7:51) *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye. (52) Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? and they killed them that showed before of the coming of the Righteous One.* Of course, he had just said to them, **(Act.7:37) *A prophet shall God raise up unto you from among your brethren, like unto me. (38) This is he that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel that spake to him in the mount Sinai ...*** In other words, he was talking about the coming of the Lord and, I believe, the coming of the Lord in His Man-child in our day. When he says this in verse 52, he is talking about

something he has already spoken to them. **(Act.7:52) Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? and they killed them that showed before of the coming of the Righteous One; of whom ye have now become betrayers and murderers.** These very bitter, unforgiving, judgmental Jews throughout their history had slaughtered people like Stephen and they will do it today, too, because they haven't changed one bit. They are an angry and unforgiving people and they judge according to the letter of the Law. Stephen was their complete opposite. You say, "Well, he didn't seem to be forgiving here when he called them 'stiff-necked and uncircumcised.'" But that was God's unforgiveness; it was what we call "governmental unforgiveness" or "governmental judgment."

Let me share with you what Jesus spoke to His disciples about governmental judgment. **(Joh.20:23) Whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained.** Wow! God gave great authority to elders here because they were going to be exercising His judgment and His unforgiveness for people. This does not have anything to do with personal unforgiveness or personal bitterness or personal judgment; it has to do with what God wants to do to protect the Church. The man who had his father's wife was turned over to Satan by Paul for the destruction of his flesh (1 Corinthians 5). That was an example of governmental judgment, governmental unforgiveness. Paul did not forgive the man; instead, he turned him over to Satan because the Lord said, **(1Co.5:6) Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?** And then he said, **(1Co.5:13) Put away the wicked man** (or the leaven) **from among yourselves** (some translations say, "out of

your midst”). So the elders did that; they exercised that authority for those kinds of outward immoralities or outward sins. Paul later did the same thing with Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:18-20). Also, we read, **(2Jn.10) If anyone cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into [your] house** (That’s an order from the Lord, a judgment of unforgiveness here.), **and give him no greeting: (11) for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works.** And again, **(3Jn.10) Therefore, if I come, I will bring to remembrance his works which he doeth, prating against us with wicked words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and them that would he forbiddeth and casteth [them] out of the church. (11) Beloved, imitate not that which is evil, but that which is good** ... Elders had authority to protect the church and to deal with usurpers. This man was a usurper, just as Korah, Dathan and Abiram were usurpers. So we can see that God will use an elder, a mature person, somebody who is not living in the same kind of sin that is being judged, to speak governmental judgment against a person. Of course, the elder who is being used to speak judgment might be accused of being unforgiving and bitter, but if the judgment is not coming as a personal response from them, then the accusation is not true.

Stephen wasn’t personally motivated in his judgment and he proves that. **(Act.7:53) Ye who received the law as it was ordained by angels, and kept it not. (54) Now when they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.** We know what the Bible says about correcting fools

and that's exactly what was happening here. **(Act.7:55) But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, Looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, (56) and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (57) But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord.** Obviously, they were being corrected by the Word of God and their spirits were just grieved. **(Act.7:58) And they cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. (59) And they stoned Stephen, calling upon [the Lord,] and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. (60) And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.** We see clearly here that Stephen had no personal unforgiveness or personal judgment whatsoever; it was the Lord Himself speaking through Stephen. **And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (Act.8:1) And Saul was consenting unto his death.**

Well, Saul was one of those bitter, unforgiving people who judged when he had no right to judge, and he was angry, as they all were, which is a manifestation of unforgiveness. **(Ecc.7:9) Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.** I don't know if you have ever done a Biblical study of "fools" or not, but you sure don't want to be in that category. **(Psa.14:1) The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works; There is none that doeth good. (Pro.13:20) Walk with wise men, and thou shalt be wise; But**

the companion of fools shall smart for it. (29:11) A fool uttereth all his anger; But a wise man keepeth it back and stilleth it. I know there are some people who use Ephesians 4:26 to say that we're permitted to be angry, as long as we don't sin, but that is not at all what Ephesians 4:26 is saying. If you have anger, it rests in the bosom of a fool. As I've mentioned previously, the Lord showed me that there is supposed to be a question mark behind that Scripture. In other words, it should read, ***(Eph.4:26) Be ye angry, and sin not? Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.*** There wasn't any punctuation in the original manuscripts; punctuation was left up to the translators. We can know this verse is not giving permission to be angry because a few verses later we read, ***(Eph.4:31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice.*** God is telling you, if you have anger, personal anger, to get rid of it. There is an anger that a person can feel that comes from God that is not personal anger. You may desire very much that a person would be saved, you may desire very much for them to repent, to change their mind, just like Stephen, who was truly hoping that these people would believe and repent and turn to God. He cried out to God to forgive them, but even though that was his desire, God didn't forgive them. What Stephen spoke was the truth. God didn't forgive them at that time and they went under judgment. Even Saul, who was there, went under judgment. Saul wasn't forgiven immediately, although he was forgiven later. And so we're told to "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

There is also this verse: ***(Pro.19:11) The discretion***

of a man maketh him slow to anger; And it is his glory to pass over a transgression. It is his glory, but what glory is that? It's the glory of God in him to pass over a transgression. We have to forgive a lot because God gives us grace and we want Him to give others grace. It's good to lead people to conviction through your words and it's good to give them faith to be something more than what they are; yes, that's all good. But for us, it is good if we are slow to anger and it is the glory of God in us to pass over a transgression. David is an excellent example of this. ***(1Sa.24:1) And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. (2) Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.*** When we look at how David deals with Saul here, we have to remember that David was dealing with a God-ordained person who was holding the position of king. It wasn't the same as Moses dealing with Korah, Dathan and Abiram as usurpers. Even today, we may be dealing with people who have put themselves in the ministry, quite a few people, as a matter of fact. I personally believe that God ordains ministers the same way He did as when Jesus told the apostles, ***(Luk.24:49) And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high.*** First they received the in-filling of the Holy Spirit and then they were sent forth to all parts of the earth. But I don't believe the Lord ordains people who are not filled with the Holy Spirit and I don't believe He ordains and sends people whom He hasn't personally educated. The Bible colleges of

Jesus' day were producing the Pharisees, Sadducees, zealots, etc. Jesus didn't accept any of that; He wanted people who would listen to Him and He trained them personally.

So there are usurpers today with whom God deals very harshly. David was taking account of the fact here that it was God Who put Saul in the position of king and God could take him out, but David wasn't going to take him out. That was the way David was dealing with this situation and, as we read on, we can see this.

(1Sa.24:2) Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. Saul had lost his anointing and he had great jealousy against David because God was anointing him and raising him up. **(1Sa.24:3) And he came to the sheep-cotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet. Now David and his men were abiding in the innermost parts of the cave. (4) And the men of David said unto him, Behold, the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thy hand, and thou shalt do to him as it shall seem good unto thee ...** In other words, David was about to be in a trial here as to how he was going to handle Saul and God was going to hold David accountable to what he considered good. **(1Sa.24:4) Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. (1Sa.24:5) And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. (6) And he said unto his men, the Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he the Lord's anointed.** Well,

I want to point out something about this: **(1Sa.16:13) Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (14) Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him. (15) And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.** So was Saul really the anointed or did he just have the position of being the anointed? David was the anointed but God had yet to remove Saul from that position. David, of course, could have been very selfish and ambitious and taken vengeance on Saul but he wouldn't do it. David considered that God had put Saul in that position and it was going to be the Lord Who would take him out. Therefore, when David referred to Saul as "the Lord's anointed," he was talking about the fact that Saul was in that position.

There are people who are in that same position today; they were ordained of God but they fell away. They failed the Lord, they fell into apostasy and the Lord is going to be the One to take them out. "David" is not going to take them out. I actually had that happen to me one time and the Lord spoke it to me. There was a man in a ministry with which I was associated who was gifted with prophecy and he told me several times, "David, the Lord told me that I am Saul and you are David. What does that mean?" Well, I knew what it meant but I wasn't going to tell him. Then, on one occasion when he was being particularly rebellious and doing things he should not have been doing against the people of God, I asked the Lord what to do. He said, "Let the Philistines take him out," and that is exactly what hap-

pened. It was the pagans who ended up taking him out. I knew that the Lord was pointing out to me that He had put this man in this position but the man was failing. He was rebelling against God, like Saul did, by walking in the flesh and giving in to unforgiveness, bitterness, jealousy, etc.

(1Sa.24:7) So David checked his men with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. And Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. (8) David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth, and did obeisance. (9) And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearkenest thou to men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Frankly, I think David was permitting Saul to save face in front of his people because these evil thoughts were in Saul's heart; nobody had to put them there. They were there already. ***(1Sa.18:7) And the women sang one to another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands. (8) And Saul was very wroth, and this saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?*** When Saul heard this, he was angry that they were attributing tens of thousands to David but only thousands to him. Saul loved that position of authority and prestige that he had and he didn't want to lose it. ***(1Sa.18:9) And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.*** From that day on, Saul hated David and sought a way to accuse him and come against him. So I believe what David was doing here was giving

Saul an opportunity for an excuse, or to save face, or whatever, by saying this.

(1Sa.24:10) Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to-day into my hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee; but [mine eye] spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth my hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed. (11) Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in my hand, and I have not sinned against thee, though thou huntest after my life to take it. (12) The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee; but my hand shall not be upon thee. I have always said I felt that David was way ahead of his time. He was someone who was raised under the Law, yet he understood these things and this nature of the Lord here. And he didn't receive this understanding in any way other than by being close to the Lord.

(1Sa.24:13) As sayeth the proverb of the ancients, Out of the wicked cometh forth wickedness; but my hand shall not be upon thee. (14) After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. So David was humbling himself before the Lord and before Saul here, seeking that this man would change his mind and repent.

(1Sa.24:15) The Lord therefore be judge, and give sentence between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thy hand. (16) And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul

said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. (17) And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rendered unto me good, whereas I have rendered unto thee evil. Just the power of this forgiveness that David had, the power of his lack of judgment for Saul and his humbling himself to Saul, was doing a convicting work in Saul's heart. Obviously, we don't want anybody to be lost, do we? People get overcome by the enemy and, of course, their enemies are our enemies. We have to realize that. **(17) And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rendered unto me good, whereas I have rendered unto thee evil.** I believe this is the way the Lord sees it, too.

The Bible says return not evil for good. **(Pro.17:13) Whosoever returneth evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.** And I have seen this fulfilled many times. It was being fulfilled in Saul's life; Saul was rewarding David evil for good, after all the good David had done for Saul, including his submission to Saul and even when David was a child and played the harp for Saul to calm down his demons. He was good to Saul but Saul was returning evil and so God was returning evil upon Saul. Saul died in his sins. He received eternal damnation because of unforgiveness, jealousy, strife and selfish ambition. But David wasn't under the curse because David constantly forgave Saul. **(1Sa.24:18) And thou hast declared this day how that thou hast dealt well with me, forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me up into thy hand, thou killedst me not.** Saul was even weeping when he said this. The conviction of God was coming over this demon-possessed man because of the way

David treated him. **(1Sa.24:19) For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the Lord reward thee good for that which thou hast done unto me this day.** And, yes, the Bible does say that's exactly what the Lord will do for this kind of reaction to your enemies. **(1Sa.24:20) And now, behold, I know that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thy hand.** This is what Saul was fighting against. He was afraid that David would be king. He told his son Jonathan that he needed to be on his side because David would receive the kingdom but Jonathan wasn't worried about it. Jonathan said, "Well, give it to him. He deserves it; it belongs to him" (1 Samuel 20). Jonathan knew this but Saul just couldn't stand the thought. He had such selfish ambition. He was protecting his kingdom, just like a lot of preachers do nowadays. They're very protective, they're jealous and they'll strive with you. If you've come to share anything that's different from what they've shared, they'll have to protect it because they've spoken it. Anyway, in this case, Saul ended up dying in his sins but David forgave him.

CHAPTER FOUR

As we've been studying heroes of the faith and their demonstrations of forgiveness, we've also seen demonstrations of how those who didn't forgive came under curses. What we've been talking about is the curse of unforgiveness. We have great teachers in the Bible; for example, David was an excellent teacher about forgiveness. Even in his failures, he learned and we can learn from his failures, too. Let's take up where we left off and look at another circumstance in the life of David. **(1Sa.25:2) *And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great*** (That is, at least in the eyes of the world, because he wasn't great in any other way.), ***and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats; and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. (3) Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail; and the woman was of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.*** "Churlish" means "hard, harsh, unforgiving, critical." This man was demon-possessed. He was like Saul, with many of the same problems that Saul had, and he also persecuted David. **(2Ti.3:12) *Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*** This persecution is going to come from angry, critical, unforgiving, bitter, jealous people, which is where it always comes from, and here David is being persecuted again.

Why is this? It's because we are not wrestling with flesh and blood here, but principalities and powers and rulers of this darkness (Ephesians 6:12). It is demons that hate

David and they will hate you if you live holy and godly in Christ Jesus. They will use anybody they can to come against you. It's a good thing you have authority from God. It's a good thing you are eating the Lamb and you are under the Passover blessing, so the Death Angel passes over. Instead of fighting with the people, you exercise your faith toward the evil spirits that use people because you have authority over the demons. Jesus said, **(Mat.5:39) Resist not him that is evil**, speaking of men, but to resist the devil, speaking of spirits. **(Jas.4:7) Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** We need to pay attention to that; so many people waste their lives arguing with men and fighting with men, defending themselves.

(1Sa.25:4) And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. (5) And David sent ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: (6) and thus shall ye say to him that liveth [in prosperity,] Peace be unto thee, and peace be to thy house, and peace be unto all that thou hast. (7) And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: thy shepherds have now been with us, and we did them no hurt, neither was there aught missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. David was like the military protecting Nabal's flock during a time when Israel was being raided by their enemies who were all around them. There were thieves who would steal livestock and other things but David and his men were protecting Nabal's flock. **(1Sa.25:8) Ask thy young men, and they will tell thee: wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes; for**

we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thy hand, unto thy servants, and to thy son David. (9) And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased. (10) And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there are many servants now-a-days that break away every man from his master. Well, anybody who knew what happened knew that's not what happened concerning David and Saul. Saul was a self-serving, critical, jealous, unforgiving, demon-possessed man who was now trying to murder David, and David was fleeing for his life. Nabal thought that this was to his advantage. He was, obviously, an unforgiving and critical person, full of selfish ambition, and although he was already great, he wanted to be even greater. He was greedy and probably thinking, "This is a good justification for my ways. I will blame and slander David. I will lie about David." Of course, God heard it and David understood it, too.

Nabal went on to say, ***(1Sa.25:11) Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers*** (So it was all about "my, my, my" to him.), ***and give it unto men of whom I know not whence they are?*** I am sure that David was very well-known and that Nabal knew about David, but he just chose to justify himself by downgrading David. ***(1Sa.25:12) So David's young men turned on their way, and went back, and came and told him according to all these words. (13) And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on***

his sword: there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the baggage. David was going to remove the man's head; he had forgotten what he had just done in the previous chapter. This is a problem for many people in that, when a person has power over someone else, they can abuse that power. When a person is weak, they can't really abuse that power. Well, David was in a position of power here and I guess he was having to deal with emotions of anger, unforgiveness and pride that this man would treat him so badly after David had treated him so well. And I'm also guessing that David was not giving Nabal personal forgiveness. It's a great temptation that can come over you when you do good to somebody but they return evil for the good you did to them. That's what was happening in this instance.

We discovered that there are two kinds of forgiveness in the Bible. There's personal forgiveness, which we always have to give to everybody. You have no excuses not to forgive because, if you don't forgive, then you are not forgiven, as Jesus said (Matthew 18:35). But there's also governmental forgiveness or governmental unforgiveness, which Jesus gave His disciples authority to exercise. ***(Joh.20:23) Whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained.*** So His disciples had authority to not forgive someone's sins, but there were certain conditions for that. If we look at all the types and shadows in all the places that a person's sins were not forgiven, in every instance the person was offending or defiling the body of Christ and not coming against just an individual. You always have to forgive when someone comes against you, but when someone is doing something to defile the body of Christ, then

the government of the people of God have authority to not forgive this person and to bring judgment upon them. A good example of this is when a man who had his father's wife (his stepmother) was turned over to Satan by Paul. **(1Co.5:1) It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even among the Gentiles, that one [of you] hath his father's wife. (2) And ye are puffed up, and did not rather mourn, that he that had done this deed might be taken away from among you. (3) For I verily, being absent in body but present in spirit, have already as though I were present judged him that hath so wrought this thing, (4) in the name of our Lord Jesus, ye being gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, (5) to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (6) Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?** Now that wasn't forgiveness; that was judgment he spoke. Other examples of judgment spoken by the apostles include the story of Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:18-22), and Hymenaeus and Alexander, who had been blaspheming, so Paul turned them over to Satan (1 Timothy 1:20). That is judgment; that is not forgiveness. **(Luk.17:3) Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.** That's governmental forgiveness and it's for the purpose of defending the body of Christ. The Lord gives His elders the right to exercise authority over those who are plundering God's people. True elders of God, who believe the Word of God and have been taught by the Lord, are not defenseless

against the wolves.

David wasn't defenseless against the "wolves"; he didn't turn the other cheek when the "wolves" came. When the lion or the bear came to take one of the flock, he fought (1 Samuel 17:34). Sometimes there are "wolves" who need to be fought, but there is a difference between governmental and personal forgiveness and we have been put here to bear our cross for the crucifixion of the old man. We don't have authority from God not to bear our cross. Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23). A cross is something that is used to die on, to die to self on. So what does God tell us to do? What does He tell self to do? Resist not him that is evil (Matthew 5:39); love your enemy (Matthew 5:44); do good to them that spitefully use you (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28). In other words, forgive. And if you forgive, you forgive. You don't fight with people, you don't argue with them. So, personally, we always have to forgive. Even the apostle Paul had to personally forgive everybody, but if there was a wolf coming to take one of the sheep, he would defend the sheep. He defended them from the liars and the false prophets, not physically by taking up any sword because that's not legal, but he did speak the Word of God. In fact, the Lord Himself turns people over to the devil when they are walking in willful rebellion and He tells us to separate from those people who are in outward immorality, as we just read in 1 Corinthians. He didn't say to forgive them; He said to separate from them. A person who is in outward immorality, fornication, railing, or judging other people, He says to cast out.

The church doesn't obey that. They'll cast you out for disagreeing with them but they won't cast you out for sinning. The Bible says just the opposite. The Bible says peo-

ple can disagree with you and you have to love them and let them grow at their own rate, unless they are in outward immorality. In that case, you have to cast them out because a little leaven leavens the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6). Yes, there has to be a place for judgment, governmental judgment, but at the personal level you always have to forgive any offense against you. So David was getting mixed-up here. A person who is in a position of authority has to be able to give personal forgiveness while, at the same time, being able to correctly apply governmental unforgiveness. Personal forgiveness has to be balanced with governmental unforgiveness. If there's anything personal in you, if there's jealousy or anger or so forth, you can't exercise the government of God. You have to be neutral because, if it's a personal problem with you, then you're retaliating and that is not permitted. God will judge you for that. **(2Co.10:6) *And being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full.*** You have to be obeying in your personal life before God will use you to speak a judgment over someone else, and when that happens, it's not a personal thing. You don't do this except you love that person. Paul knew that the only thing that would save this man was a chastening from the devil. Do you know who chastens you when you walk in willful sin? Quite often, it's the devil. The Lord turns you over to the devil and the devil gives you a good spanking. Then you run back to the Lord and say, "Lord, forgive me! Put me back under the blood."

So David was getting out of balance here. He had forgotten the thing he had said, **(1Sa. 24:12) *The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee; but my hand shall not be upon thee. (13) As***

saith the proverb of the ancients, Out of the wicked cometh forth wickedness; but my hand shall not be upon thee. Saul admitted that he had rendered unto David evil and that David had rendered good back to him. That's what Jesus commanded us to do: ***(Rom.12:21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*** Paul also said, ***(19) ... Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.*** The Lord is saying, "Don't you do it! I will do it." If you do it, He won't do it. If you defend yourself, if you repay, if you retaliate and you spank that person for doing you evil, then God won't touch him. Why should He? You have already done it. He will have to spank you instead because you are rebelling against God. He told you to resist not him that is evil, He told you to overcome evil with good and yet here you are, rebelling against Him. Now David's flesh is tempting him, just as every man is tempted by his flesh. He's being tempted to remove Nabal's head instead of giving personal forgiveness. David's pride was taking hold and it would have brought a curse on him.

(1Sa.25:14) But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed at them. Do you know what it is to "rail" at someone? God tells us to separate ourselves from those who rail. ***(1Co.5:11) But as it is, I wrote unto you not to keep company, if any man that is named a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler*** (This is the Greek word *blasphemeo*, from which the English "blaspheme" is derived.), ***or a drunkard, or an extortioner.*** Some people think that you can blaspheme only against God, but that's not

true. The word “blaspheme” just means “to speak against” and you can speak against God but you can also speak against men. In the New Testament, *blasphemeo* is most often translated as “railing” when it refers to speaking against men, and as “blaspheming” when it refers to speaking against God, although there really is no difference. You can speak against God and you can speak against men. So Nabal railed at them and that was a separation offense.

If you have someone in your church who rails at people, in other words, all they want to do is speak against other people, most often behind their back, then you need to separate from that person. A little leaven leavens the whole lump and that evil spirit will get into you. You’ll listen to that and then you’ll start speaking against people, too. You don’t want to listen to that. You need to put that person out; you need to separate from that person. If your church won’t separate from that person, then you separate from that person because that is commanded (1 Corinthians 5:11). It’s just like the sin of fornication or the sin of drunkenness, which nowadays can be drug addiction, or any other willful sin; we’re commanded to separate from that person. However, if anybody comes to your church and wants deliverance from these things, you’re supposed to help them in every way you possibly can. You’re supposed to be a vessel through whom God can deliver them. But if they’re justifying these sins and they’re continuing on in them, yet they want you to forgive them so they can defile the whole church, you can’t forgive them. I am talking about governmental unforgiveness, about not forgiving them for the Kingdom of God. There is a difference and you have to separate personal forgiveness from governmental unforgiveness. You have to forgive them personally but you

cannot forgive them for the Kingdom of God because we don't want the body defiled by a bunch of immoral sinners.

(1Sa.25:14) But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed at them. (15) But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we anything, as long as we went with them, when we were in the fields: (16) they were a wall unto us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. (17) Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do (He's still speaking to Nabal's wife, Abigail, whom the Bible says was a woman of good understanding); **for evil is determined against our master, and against all his house: for he is such a worthless fellow, that one cannot speak to him.** We see his own servants didn't respect Nabal either because he was evil and, as we read on, we see that his wife also didn't respect him because he was evil and he rewarded evil for good. You know, that's something that we find harder to take than a lot of things. When we treat somebody kindly and we do them good and we bend over backwards to help them, and we pray for them and we take care of them, we find it hard to stomach when they repay us with evil. Yet the Lord tells us to go to our cross, to turn the other cheek, to love our enemy and to do them good. We are to overcome evil with good. We saw when David did that to old hardened warrior Saul and it convicted Saul so strongly that Saul started crying. He was hardened in his sins, too, but he started crying. What David was doing was overcoming evil with good.

So Abigail is listening to the bad report here and she

figures out, *David is coming to get us. (1Sa.25:18) Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched grain, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. (19) And she said unto her young men, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. (20) And it was so, as she rode on her ass, and came down by the covert of the mountain, that, behold, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. (21) Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath returned me evil for good.* Now David was wrong there; you don't do anything that is right in vain, but the devil was attacking his mind. He wasn't thinking straight and he was going to go and retaliate. Anything you do that is right, you do it unto the Lord. The Lord is watching and He will reward you; men may not, but He will. *(1Sa.25:22) God do so unto the enemies of David, and more also, if I leave of all that pertain to him by morning so much as one man-child.* David had been overcome by this situation and he was going to wipe out Nabal. Yet he had said to Saul, "The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee; but my hand shall not be upon thee."

David also wrote, *(Psa.35:11) Unrighteous witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I know not.* Of course, Nabal was an unrighteous witness of David. He had slandered him and criticized him and he was

wrong about David. **(Psa.35:12) They reward me evil for good, [To] the bereaving of my soul.** It does bereave your soul when they do that. **(Psa.35:13) But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I afflicted my soul with fasting; And my prayer returned into mine own bosom.** Notice that. He fasted and prayed for these people but his prayer returned into his own bosom. In other words, God blessed him for praying for his enemies but it didn't seem to do the enemies any good because the enemies were returning evil for good. **(Pro.17:13) Whoso rewardeth evil for good, Evil shall not depart from his house.** How can God bless somebody like that? But God likes that you obey Jesus, Who said to pray for your enemies; that shows that your heart is right. Now the person you're praying for may not deserve it and may not receive it, but if your heart is right, God will bless you. He's telling you to do this, so beseech God, ask Him to bless your enemies.

I remember there were two people in this assembly some time ago whom I had faithfully served for many years. I had asked nothing for doing that. My reward was that I was meeting their spiritual needs. Well, the woman had a problem. She had a Jezebel spirit and she wouldn't repent of it, but the husband had a problem, too. He had an Ahab spirit and he couldn't hear the Lord because he was going to obey his wife instead, even though she was running him ragged. When his wife was out of town, however, he was a totally different person and I loved to see him when he wasn't under her thumb. He was totally different but he wasn't free; he was in bondage. Anyway, for years, this woman kept receiving dreams about herself. Some of them were really powerful and they were rebuking her. She would have

dreams that her hair was black, when in reality it was red. Hair in type represents submission (1 Corinthians 11) and God uses the black hair on somebody who doesn't normally have black hair as a sign that this person is submitted to darkness. She was submitted to evil spirits and she was ruling over her husband by leading him. He was unable to hear and follow the Lord, and lead her, as the Bible commands. She eventually stopped bringing her dreams to me because I was interpreting them as correcting her and she didn't want to be corrected anymore. She was becoming a little upset about it. One day I asked her if she was getting dreams anymore and she said, "Yes, but I'm interpreting them myself." I said, "Oh, okay. No problem." But she and her husband decided they were going to come against me. I wasn't correcting her out of bounds. Mostly I was just interpreting her dreams and I thought, "Okay, Lord. You are correcting her and I don't have to correct her because You are correcting her." And the Lord was. In fact, if she had taken her dreams to anyone else, I am certain that she would have received the same interpretation.

When they began to rail against me, I just prayed for them. I asked the Lord to help them, to deliver them, to set them free. Well, the Lord didn't hear my prayer because when they started to rail, the Lord made them both sick. She was sick for a solid month and couldn't even go to work. He was sick at the same for six weeks and couldn't go to work, either. I was praying for them. They asked for me to pray for them and I prayed for them. They didn't repent of what they had done to me and I wasn't demanding for them to repent of that, but they asked me to pray, so I prayed for them. However, the Lord wasn't hearing my prayer. He wanted me to forgive them to the extent that I

would pray for them, but He wasn't hearing my prayer. He was giving them a good spanking. Then, after they recovered from being sick, they just kept on with their railing against me and she was in a car wreck that totaled her car and crushed her foot. It was God correcting them.

The Lord wants you to forgive to the extent that you won't have any problem praying for somebody who repays you with evil for good; He wants you to love them and want the best for them. When Paul turned the man who had his father's wife over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh so that his spirit would be saved in the day of the Lord (1 Corinthians 5:5), he did that because he loved that man. He wanted this man to be saved. If you don't chasten a child, you will destroy them. **(Pro.19:18) Chasten thy son, seeing there is hope; And set not thy heart on his destruction.** Well, you can't take a stick and whip somebody in the church who is in need of a chastening, but that's what the devil does. You can turn them over to the devil. I am not recommending this be done outside of God's direction, because only God can judge, and if He leads an elder to do this, it will work when nothing else will work. You can be kind to this person, it won't help. You can accept them in your assembly, and forgive them, it won't help. They are going to have to go through a chastening. When the Lord leads you to exercise authority, as Paul did (1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Corinthians 5:5), and it is the Lord Who is doing the judging and not you, turning them over to the devil will work better than anything else out there. That's because these people need to know that an elder has authority. At the Lord's instruction, I turned one woman, who was taking serious advantage of people in the church, over to the devil. The demons jumped on her and when she became deathly

ill, she cried out to the Lord. She couldn't even get out of bed and was lying in her own waste and vomit, just crying out to God to save her. The Lord told her, "You sinned and you've been turned over to the devil." Then she called me on the phone and she said, "David, I have been so sick I can't get out of bed, and the Lord said that I've been turned over to the devil." I answered, "Yeah, that's right. You have been turned over to the devil and you have to repent. The Lord told me to turn you over to the devil and you have to repent." So she cried out to the Lord, "Lord, if you just take this off of me, I will go and confess my sins that I have done to the whole assembly!" And, sure enough, she came into our assembly and she confessed her sins and the things she was doing against other people.

But listen to this. She went straight back home and as soon as she arrived, this sickness fell on her again. She was right back in her bed and she cried, "Lord, Lord, I did what You told me to do; I went and confessed my sins!" She called me up again and said, "David, I did what the Lord told me to do and when I came back home, I got sick again." I said, "Well, yes, you did; you came and you confessed your sins and that's good. I believe we should forgive you and command you to be healed." And I did. I commanded the demons to loose her and that she would be healed, and she was. You see, what she needed was respect for elders. She had no respect for elders, men in authority, and the Lord made sure that she understood that a real elder is not helpless when you are defiling the body. When you're offending people, when you're bringing a curse on the body, an elder has authority. Jesus said, ***(Luk.10:19) Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:***

and nothing shall in any wise hurt you. Do you see that? We have authority over the devil's power. We know Elymas the sorcerer was smitten blind when the apostles spoke (Acts 13), and Ananias and Sapphira fell dead when the apostles spoke (Acts 5) because the apostles had authority to speak for God. You can't blame the man who spoke the judgment. It was God doing the work and man was just the mouthpiece. God has authority to chasten people who are trying to destroy His body.

Now David was trying to exercise faith for people who were rewarding evil for good and God has already told us, **(Pro.17:13) Whoso rewardeth evil for good, Evil shall not depart from his house.** Let's read on. **(Psa.35:14) I behaved myself as though it had been my friend or my brother: I bowed down mourning, as one that bewaileth his mother. (15) But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: The objects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew [it] not.** I've had that happen to me, too, and I find out only later that people have been slandering me. I've been good to them but they are going to do evil to me or they didn't like what I taught because it was coming against their flesh but they really wanted to go that way, so they decided to speak against me for a while. **(Psa.11:2) For, lo, the wicked bend the bow, They make ready their arrow upon the string, That they may shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.** In other words, they shoot them in the back. **(Psa.35:15) But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: The objects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew [it] not; They did tear me, and ceased**

not: (16) Like the profane mockers in feasts, They gnashed upon me with their teeth. (17) Lord, how long wilt thou look on? Rescue my soul from their destructions, My darling from the lions. (18) I will give thee thanks in the great assembly: I will praise thee among much people. Praise the Lord! So David prayed.

I've found that you can pray for someone who is exercising unbelief and doubt, or they are walking in double-mindedness, and the Bible says your prayers will not be answered. But if a person is returning evil for good, there won't be an answer, either. A person who is walking in willful disobedience is rebelling against the Lord. **(Heb.10:26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.** So God is saying if you walk in willful disobedience against Him, He will spank you. People can pray for you, but He is still going to spank you, so repent. Repent of your evil and turn to God; don't walk in willful rebellion against God. There is no forgiveness for that until you get a spanking because you have to pay the penalty for willful rebellion. Jesus will take the penalty, if you repent and you turn away from your sins, but if you walk in willful rebellion, He won't take the penalty.

So, Abigail knew that Nabal's response had aroused David's anger and she gathered together some provisions to meet the needs of David and his men. **(1Sa.25:21) Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing**

was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath returned me evil for good. David was ready to take out Nabal's whole family. ***(1Sa.25:23) And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and alighted from her ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground. (24) And she fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me be the iniquity; and let thy handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine ears, and hear thou the words of thy handmaid. (25) Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this worthless fellow, even Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him*** ("Nabal" means "fool" and he was obviously living out his name.): ***but I thy handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. (26) Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the Lord hath withholden thee from bloodguiltiness, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now therefore let thine enemies, and them that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.*** She was saying the Lord was attempting to withhold David from bloodguiltiness because neither she nor anyone else in her household was guilty, but only Nabal. And she was saying that the Lord was trying to keep David from avenging himself by his own hand.

That's a big problem, when we want to take our own vengeance. Instead, the Lord tells us, ***(Rom.12:14) Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not. (Rom.12:17) Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men.*** You can't do this unless you forgive a person. What Jesus is saying to do here, through the apostle Paul, can't

be done if you don't forgive, if you don't give up bitterness and so on. It's a manifestation of forgiveness if you "render to no man evil for evil." If you have forgiven someone, then you are not going to retaliate, you're not going to wish any evil upon them. **(Rom.12:18) If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. (19) Avenge not yourselves, beloved** (This is what David was about to do and Abigail, by the grace of God, was reasoning with him to not do this.), **but give place unto the wrath** (Some translations add "of God" here, but that's not in the original. The meaning is "give place unto the wrath" of whatever this person is doing against you.): **for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.** The Lord said He will recompense; you don't have to retaliate. If you retaliate, you're rebelling against His Word and He'll spank you for retaliating. **(Rom.12:20) But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. (21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.** There were very few people in the Old Testament who understood this principle, but David was one of them and Abigail was another. They understood this and she was saying something to him that he understood.

It was common for people in David's position to kill their enemies, but he was an unusual person, a man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). He wanted God's heart. The Lord said, **(Mat.5:38) Ye have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: (39) but I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. (40) And**

if any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. (41) And whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two. (42) Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. (43) Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: (44) but I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; (45) that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. Notice He said “sons.” There is a difference in the Scriptures between a “son” of God and a “child” of God. The son, of course, is the one who is manifesting the only begotten Son of God and that is Jesus Christ. If you’re manifesting Jesus Christ, then you’re going to do what He’s telling you here. You will love your enemies, you will turn the other cheek and so on. ***(Mat.5:46) For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others?] do not even the Gentiles the same?*** In other words, He wants you to be kind to your enemies.

The world doesn’t know anything about this, folks. In the world, when they have enemies, they fight with them. There are wars between nations and they kill lots and lots of people. Fighting with enemies is a thing of the world and has nothing to do with the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God does not call you to take up the sword against your enemies. I don’t care what the world says. I don’t care what the worldly church says. Jesus forbids it. So you’re either go-

ing to obey Jesus or you're going to obey what the apostate religious leaders tell you. War is from the flesh. (**Jas.4:1**) ***Whence [come] wars and whence [come] fightings among you? [come they] not hence, [even] of your pleasures that war in your members? (2) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and covet, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war; ye have not, because ye ask not. (3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may spend [it] in your pleasures. (4) Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God. (5) Or think ye that the scripture speaketh in vain? Doth the spirit which he made to dwell in us long unto envying?*** James spoke severely against war. If you take the sword, you're going to die by the sword. (**Mat.26:52**) ***Then saith Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.*** God is merciful with the unjust and He wants us to be merciful, also. (**Mat.5:48**) ***Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***

Let's continue in Samuel. (**1Sa.25:27**) ***And now this present which thy servant hath brought unto my lord, let it be given unto the young men that follow my lord. (28) Forgive, I pray thee, the trespass of thy handmaid: for the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord fighteth the battles of the Lord; and evil shall not be found in thee all thy days.*** There is a hidden meaning underneath this. She was saying, in essence, "You should be fighting the battles of the Lord and not your own battles."

(1Sa.25:29) And though man be risen up to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul, yet the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life (“the living”) with the Lord thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as from the hollow of a sling. (30) And it shall come to pass, when the Lord shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee prince over Israel, (31) that this shall be no grief unto thee (That is, that David would have avenged himself by his own hand and been guilty of blood.), nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood without cause, or that my lord hath avenged himself. And when the Lord shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thy handmaid. And he certainly did that, too, didn't he? He later married Abigail. **(1Sa.25:32) And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent thee this day to meet me: (33) and blessed be thy discretion, and blessed be thou, that hast kept me this day from bloodguiltiness, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. (34) For in very deed, as the Lord, the God of Israel, liveth, who hath withholden me from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light so much as one man-child. (35) So David received of her hand that which she had brought him: and he said unto her, Go up in peace to thy house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person. (36) And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his**

house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. It wouldn't have done any good, would it? **(1Sa.25:37) And it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, that his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. (38) And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord smote Nabal, so that he died.** Well, it was certainly true. David didn't defend himself, he didn't avenge himself and the Lord kept His Word (Romans 12:19). He avenged David. Had David done that, of course, the Lord wouldn't have avenged David because David had avenged himself.

Wouldn't you rather the Lord is the One to repay? It is such a great testimony when the Lord does it and not you. First of all, you bring judgment upon yourself when you do that and, second, you're forbidden to do that, as the Lord clearly tells us, because that is part of bearing our cross. Self wants to defend self, self wants to be unforgiving, self wants to be bitter and self wants to demand its pound of flesh. Self wants "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, resist not him that is evil." In other words, forgive and God will forgive you. **(1Sa.25:39) And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the Lord, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept back his servant from evil: and the evil-doing of Nabal hath the Lord returned upon his own head. And David sent and spake concerning Abigail, to take her to him to wife.** So he didn't forget

Abigail at all, did he? There are many good examples in the Scriptures concerning this and we will be looking at more of them as we study the difference between governmental forgiveness and personal forgiveness.

CHAPTER FIVE

As we continue our study of what forgiveness is and the curse that unforgiveness brings, I hope you're thinking about this. It's a very simple teaching, but it's very important that we get this foundation of learning forgiveness. We have to rightly divide the Word. **(2Ti.2:15) Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.** We've discovered that forgiveness in the New Testament comes in two forms: personal forgiveness and governmental forgiveness. And we've discovered that you always have to give personal forgiveness to everybody. The reason for that is because we have all been sinners, so we all owe a great debt to God (Matthew 18:21-35) and, according to that, unless we forgive our brethren, who also owe us a great debt because of their sin toward us, we will not receive forgiveness from God. In addition, we've discovered that there is governmental forgiveness and governmental unforgiveness. This is very important; the church could not actually work or function without it. Without the authority to administer governmental forgiveness or governmental unforgiveness, the church body will be leavened. The body will be destroyed.

Not everybody is ordained to exercise governmental unforgiveness. There are many ministers who were not sent by God. **(Rev.2:26) And he that overcometh, and he that keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give authority over the nations.** It's not authority to act for ourselves; it's authority to act for the Lord. You know, **(Col.3:17) And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giv-**

ing all things to God the Father through him. That means we do everything in His name because we represent Him as ambassadors for Christ. ***(2Co.5:20) We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech [you] on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God.*** In this world, we don't do our own will; we are bondservants of His and we do His Will. Once a person gets into self-will, they're no longer qualified to exercise unforgiveness for the Kingdom of God. God doesn't have to forgive, but we always have to forgive. If He exercises unforgiveness, it will be because of willful disobedience. ***(Heb.10:26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.*** In other words, God says you need a spanking because you're willfully disobedient. Can we still receive forgiveness after we repent of willful disobedience? Yes, but we're still going to get a whipping because it was willful disobedience.

So God doesn't have to forgive; He can spank instead and He can do this through people. There are people who have been put in positions of authority and they stumble. They fall and they're really not qualified for their position any longer but it's as if, once a person is put in there, the label or the tag is more important than their level of maturity, which is sad because authority flows from God. If you're following God, you can have authority: ***(Rev.2:26) And he that overcometh, and he that keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give authority*** ... Authority is a right to use power and we receive that

right by being an overcomer, or in other words, by doing the Word, eating the meat, becoming mature. **(Heb. 5:12) For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. (13) For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. (14) But solid food is for fullgrown men, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil. (Heb.6:1) Wherefore leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ, let us press on unto perfection ...** “Elder” means “mature.” We see that Saul was put in a position to be an elder over Israel, but he became very stubborn and rebellious, and God took His Spirit away from him and gave him an evil spirit. Well, David handled it very well the first time and he spared Saul’s life at En-gedi, as we saw, but then when Nabal returned him evil for good, David was tempted to be unforgiving and demand his pound of flesh. However, the Lord mercifully brought David back to his senses by grace, and David repented and decided not to return evil for evil in the matter of personal forgiveness.

Let’s look at another occasion where David had a chance to kill Saul. **(1Sa.26:1) And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before the desert? (2) Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.** You remember the last time that

Saul went out hunting David. Saul found David, but David passed up a chance to kill Saul because he wasn't going to raise his hand against the Lord's anointed. David had forgiven Saul, even though Saul was seeking his life. And Saul, because David did spare his life, went home at that time and appeared to have somewhat forgiven David. Now we see that Saul was being tempted to go after David once again because of his jealousy, bitterness and unforgiveness. He was being prodded by demons to attack David. **(1Sa.26:3)** *And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before the desert, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. (4) David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come of a certainty. (5) And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had encamped; and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay within the place of the wagons, and the people were encamped round about him. (6) Then answered David and said to Abimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee. (7) So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the place of the wagons, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; And Abner and the people lay round about him. (8) Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered up thine enemy into thy hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear to the earth at one stroke, and I*

will not smite him the second time. He was saying, “I can take care of him with one stab here,” but David’s conscience wouldn’t let him give permission to Abishai, even though Abishai had reminded him, “God hath delivered up thine enemy into thy hand this day.”

The Bible teaches us very plainly that it doesn’t matter whether you are right or wrong, you have to obey your conscience. Romans 14 is plain about that. If someone believes that it is wrong to eat meats, then they shouldn’t eat meats. If someone believes that it is wrong to not keep the Old Testament Sabbath, then they ought to keep the Old Testament Sabbath. You shouldn’t defile your conscience by doing what you believe is wrong and God will never have you go against your conscience. God will teach us what is right and what is wrong. Your spirit man has to be educated. For example, we discovered that “to eat meat” is to have your senses exercised to discern between good and evil. When I was Catholic, I thought it was wrong to eat meat on Fridays because that’s what I was taught and, of course, the Lord didn’t want me to go against my conscience and defile my conscience. You know, if you defile your conscience, it becomes quieter and quieter until you don’t hear it any more, and then you have a really hard heart. But when I came to the Lord and I started reading the Bible, I found out that there’s nothing wrong with eating meat on Friday. It was just another tradition of man. Now, if the Lord convicted me to fast and I didn’t follow through on it, if I disobeyed Him, then I would be going against my conscience.

So David’s conscience was telling him that he shouldn’t smite the Lord’s anointed and Saul had this position of the anointed; even though he no longer had the actual anointing, he still had the position. ***(1Sa.26:9) And David***

said to Abishai, Destroy him not; for who can put forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? (10) And David said, As the Lord liveth, the Lord will smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall go down into battle, and perish. Well, that was very prophetic because that's exactly what happened; the Philistines took Saul out. **(1Sa.26:11) The Lord forbid that I should put forth my hand against the Lord's anointed: but now take, I pray thee, the spear that is at his head, and cruse of water, and let us go.** It was only because of Saul's position that David was so convicted that he shouldn't touch this man because Saul was in total rebellion and not anointed. He was leading God's people astray and about to lead them to a battle at Gilboa, which was going to do great damage to Israel. Many Israelites fell because they were following Saul at that time. Whenever God gave His people an evil ruler, it usually ended up that way. He would lead them to some form of destruction, whether it was spiritual or physical and in this case it was physical. They were being led by a rebellious Saul who wasn't following the Lord and was leading them to destruction.

A lot of people are in that position today. They're being led by a Saul ministry instead of a David ministry and it's leading them to destruction. But you know, Jesus taught us how to deal with this type of situation. **(Mat.23:1) Then spake Jesus to the multitudes** (So He wasn't talking to His disciples. He was teaching the multitudes, many of whom were still in the traditional Judaism, but they were going out to listen to this great evangelist.) **and to his disciples, (Mat.23:2) saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat: (3) all things there-**

fore whatsoever they bid you, [these] do and observe: but do not ye after their works; for they say, and do not. (4) Yea, they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. I think that's applicable to what we're seeing here concerning David's command to respect Saul's position and it's that way today, folks. If you put yourself under somebody in the denominational structure, you're not there to cause havoc and destruction. You're there to be a good representative of the Lord, to show yourself as submissive. Yes, you may say some things for the King of kings, you may say some things for the Lord that may cause some people to grow up and may cause others to persecute you, but it won't be for doing evil. It will be for doing good. **(1Pe.3:17) For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that ye suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing.** So David was saying, "Let the Philistines take Saul out, but I am not going to do it." In other words, **(Rom. 12:19) ... Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.** The Lord did repay Saul for his mistreatment of David and his mistreatment of the people of God, but David was guiltless. He was submissive to what the Lord had trained his conscience to do and for us to also walk in the steps of Jesus, we need to train ourselves with His Word.

You can't hold to the traditions of men and walk in the steps of Jesus because your conscience isn't trained as to what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil. Many people do evil while calling it good and Jesus said, **(Joh.16:2) ... Yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you shall think that he offereth ser-**

vice unto God. There are religious people just like that today who think they know the Jesus of the Bible and yet they don't know Him. They'll persecute you and think they're doing God a favor because they have their own god. You see, they've created their own god in their mind and that's the one they're serving, even though it may be antichrist. I remember years ago when I first came to Pensacola, the Lord opened a door for me to serve in a ministry there. He sent a prophetess before me who prophesied of me to their assembly and it opened the door for me to minister there. I learned a lot there; the Lord taught me to be weak to the weak. I know some people tend to be very harsh and they're hard and very correcting when they find somebody who is out of line, but the first thing you should do is find out where that person is in their walk. Is what they are doing willful disobedience or just ignorance? So it took me a little while to figure out the pastor and when I did, I realized he was in willful disobedience. He was a famous person in the world before he became a pastor and, actually, that's the way he was able to become a pastor. People respect worldly gifts and they'll make a pastor out of somebody who has worldly gifts, which is just ridiculous. That doesn't mean you have any gift whatsoever in the Kingdom because these are two different kingdoms we're talking about.

Anyway, this is how the man became a pastor. It wasn't because he had overcome that the Lord had given him authority; he had usurped authority, just as many other preachers today have usurped authority. Because of their certificate or their Bible college or whatever, they think that they are now qualified to go out and be a minister for the Lord, but you have to be ordained by the Lord to do that. You can't get that from a Bible college, so what we have is

a whole lot of ministries that are usurping the place of the Kingdom. When a man falls away from the Lord, as Saul did, he ought to give up his ministry and walk away from it because he's going to bring a lot of people to destruction, just as Saul's rebellion brought a lot of people to destruction. David was the true anointed of the Lord and the people who followed him were therefore following the Lord. However, with this particular pastor I saw that he was doing many things that were willfully disobedient, even to the point of telling other people, "Now don't tell David that I'm doing this," because they were things you just shouldn't do. He was a stumbling block to a lot of people in that assembly. Well, when I found out about these things, I felt a little bit responsible because God had opened a door for me to teach there. I was teaching a lot more of the Word and knew a lot more of the Word than the pastor, while God had kind of dried him up. So I asked the Lord, "What do you want me to do? What do you want me to do with this man?" And the Lord answered, "Nothing. Let the Philistines take him out." I understood what the Lord was saying; it was the same situation between David and Saul.

Well, lo and behold, this man comes to me and tells me, "David, the Lord told me three times that I was Saul and you were David." He was almost scratching his head, wondering what that meant. I didn't bother to tell him. I just continued to teach the people and I continued to try and teach him, to share with him but, you know, when people are in a position of authority, it's very hard to teach them because there is a little bit of pride that comes with that authority. It was a case of, "Hey, I'm the pastor and I know something about this stuff," although he didn't know anything and that was the problem; he was leading God's

people into sin by defiling the body with his own leaven. So I started praying for him and I also started praying for the people, since the Lord didn't want me to do anything at that time, other than try to bring graceful correction to him. And when I started praying for the people, some of them began receiving revelations about him, which was opening their eyes. In one sister's revelation, she was in the church and saw something at the window that caught her attention. She turned to look out the window and there was the pastor out there, shivering in the cold. She thought she would let him in and she opened the window, but when she did that, he turned into a dragon. So this lady went to the library and looked up his last name and found out that it meant "Dragon." I don't think that was an accident because the dragon is the god of Babylon; his name was Bel. Some churches are under the dragon. They think they're under the Lord, but they're really under the dragon. As a matter of fact, during the great so-called "revival" down the road in Brownsville, people have received revelations that the dragon was ruling over that building because it's nothing but Babylonish religion and very cultish. Then two other sisters received the exact same dream as a revelation. They dreamed that this pastor was driving down the interstate, which is a broad road. It's a narrow road that the righteous travel on, but this was a broad road, which leads to destruction or damnation. He ran off the road and into the water, and he was drowning in his car but I was trying to get the door opened and save him. They both had this dream.

In the Scripture, David was trying to reason with Saul but Saul held on to his own lusts, his own pride, his own jealousy concerning David, instead of repenting of it and turning them all loose. And that was the kind of situation

between this pastor and myself; I was trying, without much success, to share things with him, trying to get him out of the car so he didn't drown, so it didn't kill him. I was trying very hard to share a Word with him to help him grow up in the Lord and to repent, but he didn't have that ambition and he died, not physically but spiritually. As far as I know, he never came back to the Lord but I forgave him of the personal things he had done against me. And I had to do it constantly in order to keep ministering to him and be somebody he would listen to. If I had become offended, or if I had become angry, or if I had retaliated, he wouldn't have listened to me. The Lord has a right to not forgive and He didn't forgive this man of his sins that he was bringing onto the body. But I knew that something had to happen, something had to come to pass here, so what the Lord had me do was to pray that God would open the people's eyes because this pastor was a very charismatic person. He had musical gifts and he had vocal gifts, neither of which obviously make you a pastor. At any rate, I was constantly forgiving him but not for the Lord; it was not governmental forgiveness. I was praying that the people would understand who the pastor was and they eventually did understand, and they began to depart from under him.

I believe this is where David was as he tried to reason with Saul. **(1Sa.26:12) So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's head; and they gat them away: and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither did any awake; for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord was fallen upon them.** Well, that's interesting because it was true what Abishai had said to David, that "God hath delivered up thine enemy into thy hand this day." The Lord had put Da-

vid in a position of power over Saul such that David could have taken him out. When you really become tempted it's because you're in a position where you're able to do something. If you're not able to do something, you're not very tempted. It is kind of like "jailhouse" religion. They put you in jail and because you're not around things that normally tempt you, since they've all been taken away, you can settle down and study the Bible and get some religion. But when you get back out, that's the real trial. When you're back in the position where you can partake of sin again, that's the only time you're really tried. A lot of people who do get jailhouse religion, when they're released, go right back to doing what they were doing before because they don't get enough of the Word in them to sustain them and give them strength. David was in a position here where he could have done something to Saul and, at least in the short term, solved his problem, but he believed in the sovereignty of God. He said, **(1Sa.26:10) As the Lord liveth, the Lord will smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall go down into battle, and perish. (11) The Lord forbid that I should put forth my hand against the Lord's anointed.** So the Lord put David in a position where he could sin and gave him the power to sin, but then the Lord convicted him in his spirit not to do it.

Now that's when you're going to be really tried: when you have the power to do something and yet the Spirit is telling you, "Don't do it!" But God made the opportunity. He even put all of these people to sleep so David could kill Saul, if he wanted to. And that's when you are an overcomer; it's when you have the ability and opportunity to sin but you don't will to do it. An example that's the opposite of

that is Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). People talk about how AA solves someone's problem with alcoholism, but it really doesn't solve the problem. It's kind of like white-knuckling it, using your own willpower. Plus, their members still claim to be alcoholics and they say they will be alcoholics all of their lives. They are trained by AA to remember that, which is not God's salvation at all because we reckon ourselves to be dead unto sin but alive unto God (Romans 6:11). When God takes away that spirit of alcoholism, you've overcome it and you can be around that stuff and even smell it, and it won't bother you or drag you back into it. But as long as you are white-knuckling it, not wanting the penalty that it costs you and your family, you can get around that stuff and fall right back into it. You haven't really overcome it, unlike what we're seeing here with David. David had the ability to go and sin but he was a true overcomer because God made that opportunity and David didn't take it.

(1Sa.26:13) Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of the mountain afar off; a great space being between them; (14) and David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king? (15) And David said to Abner, Art not thou a [valiant] man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept watch over thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. (16) This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the Lord liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept watch over your lord, the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the

cruse of water that was at his head. In other words, he's letting everybody know that he had the opportunity and he had the ability, and he even had the spear, but he didn't do it. ***(1Sa.26:17) And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king. (18) And he said, Wherefore doth my lord pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in my hand? (19) Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant.*** You know, there doesn't seem to be much reason why people who are righteous are persecuted by people who are wicked. You try to reason with the wicked but it doesn't seem to get through their thick skull and it's because they are driven by demons in a lot of cases. Certainly Saul was. People who are in a position of authority but who are not overcoming can be very jealous and protective of their position. You have to be very careful around them because they will become extremely defensive. You won't be able to do anything around them and here David was trying to reason with Saul. He was saying, "Look, what have I done? Stop and think about this. What exactly have I done to cause you to come after me?" Well, Saul knew the only reason was his own jealousy but he wasn't willing to give it up. ***(1Sa.26:19) Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it be the Lord that hath stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if it be the children of men, cursed be they before the Lord; for they have driven me out this day that I should not cleave unto the inheritance of the Lord, saying, Go, serve other gods. (20) Now therefore, let not my blood fall***

to the earth away from the presence of the Lord: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

It always pays to humble yourself when a man is prideful.

(1Sa.26:21) Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David; for I will no more do thee harm ... And I'm sure that Saul may have meant that. He wasn't in control of his faculties but I'm sure that he meant that he wanted to do this because he was convicted. David had been in a position where he could have killed him but he had mercy upon him instead. David forgave him and Saul knew that he did not deserve that. This is always convicting, even to a hardened person like Saul. ***(1Sa.26:21) Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David; for I will no more do thee harm, because my life was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. (22) And David answered and said, Behold the spear, O king! let then one of the young men come over and fetch it. (23) And the Lord will render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; forasmuch as the Lord delivered thee into my hand today, and I would not put forth my hand against the Lord's anointed. (24) And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes*** (In other words, "your life was valuable to me.") ***so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the Lord, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. (25) Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do mightily, and shalt surely prevail. So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.*** Of course, David did prevail and Saul received the

vengeance of the Lord when he was taken out by the Philistines and David became king. All of the trials that he went through prepared him to be a good and a merciful king. He learned mercy through the Lord showing him mercy and the Lord used David mightily to show mercy to others.

Well, we know that later David sinned. His heart was lifted up and he sinned against the Lord with Bathsheba, going so far as to send Uriah into a battle that he couldn't win but where he would be killed by the hand of the enemy. Then the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to tell David he was going to have to pay a penalty for his willful disobedience. **(2Sa.12:9) *Wherefore hast thou despised the word of the Lord, to do that which is evil in his sight? thou hast smitten Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. (10) Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thy house, because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.*** Being in a position of authority has caused an awful lot of people to fall. As Lord Acton said, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely," because power is a great trial for most people. There's only one kind of person who cannot be corrupted by power and that is a person who has been tried and has overcome. It's not healthy to be a king in the first place. God didn't choose this for Israel; the people chose this (1 Samuel 10:17-19). God gave them Saul and God even warned them (1 Samuel 8:11-18), "You want a man to be king, you don't want Me to be King over you, so this is what your king is going to do to you." And He was right; Saul abused his power. It seems that Saul was a good person when he started to be

king but power went to his head and he had opportunity to sin. Remember, you haven't really overcome until you are faced with an opportunity to sin. You don't get that in jail, right? Well, opportunity to sin was afforded to Saul and even though at the beginning he was innocent, he hadn't overcome in enough trials before becoming king. He wasn't prepared to overcome in the midst of that. In contrast, we see that David was being trained to, hopefully, not stumble when he came into the opportunity to exercise power. You can abuse power pretty easily but God was training David to not abuse power, training him to be humble, yet he still stumbled. And when the Lord pronounced through the prophet that the sword wasn't going to depart from David's house, one way that was fulfilled was with David's son, Absalom.

Absalom began to curry favor with the people and to bring them over to his side some time before he finally started his coup (2 Samuel 15). David decided to leave, rather than to fight Absalom, so David was again leaving the outcome up to the Lord. Some of the things he spoke made that very plain. He believed in a sovereign God and that meant he didn't have to start a war that would kill a great number of people on both sides. So he and some of his supporters were fleeing Jerusalem, while others stayed behind to become spies for him within Absalom's court. One incident that happened reveals that David had the kind of great wisdom and great understanding not commonly found until you get into the New Testament, and that was the matter of Shimei. **(2Sa.16:5) And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out thence a man of the family of the house of Saul ...** Now David superseded Saul. Saul was wiped out and it wasn't David's

fault that Saul was killed along with all his sons, so that David came into power. It was the Lord Who caused that to happen. God is sovereign and it was God Who chastened Saul for his evil. Anybody who couldn't discern the evil of Saul is like a person who sits on a pew today and can't discern the evil of an apostate church. Their senses haven't been exercised to discern good from evil because they don't spend enough time in God's Word to polish their senses. Shimei hadn't discerned that Saul was an evil person. Do you know what kind of person doesn't discern an evil person? Another evil person. They are people who are justifying themselves. **(2Sa.16:5) And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out thence a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out, and cursed still as he came. (6) And he cast stones at David** (He was a nervy fellow, wasn't he?), **and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.** I would think Shimei was most likely demon-possessed. Here he is throwing rocks at a troop of mighty men of valor – battle veterans. Rocks are not what you normally want to use against swords.

(2Sa.16:7) And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Begone, begone, thou man of blood, and base fellow. Well, of course, this was slander, hatred, unforgiveness and just downright lying because if anyone wasn't guilty of the blood of the house of Saul, it was David. He was not guilty. He hadn't raised his hand against him and he could have, especially when many of his mighty men thought it right that David should go ahead and kill Saul. **(2Sa.16:7) And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Begone, be-**

gone, thou man of blood, and base fellow: (8) the Lord hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul (Actually, the chastening coming through Absalom's coup had nothing to do with that; it had to do with David's sin against the house of Uriah. So he was basically slandering him, lying and being bitter and unforgiving.), **in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son.** Of course, Absalom usurped the kingdom. God permitted it, but Absalom usurped the kingdom by "buttering-up" the people, by flattering the people. It just shows how ignorant sheep can be and they're still that way today. They can be very, very blind. Absalom was making his own way. As a good-looking young fellow who was a smooth talker and so on, he led the people astray. This was the real reason and it had nothing to do with David being guilty of the blood of the house of Saul. **(2Sa.16:8) The Lord hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son; and, behold, thou art [taken] in thine own mischief, because thou art a man of blood. (9) Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.** That was the normal thing that people in power did back then, especially if you insulted the king.

(2Sa.16:10) And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? Let me point out something to you here. David used his sword to defend the people of God against the beast, against the apostates. He

smote the lion and the bear to protect the lambs (1 Samuel 17:34-36), so to speak, but he didn't use the sword to protect himself. We have this same situation with Jesus, Who defended the church from the apostate leadership and their false doctrines, but He didn't defend Himself from going to the cross. Moses was another example who didn't defend himself but did defend the people of God. And all three of these, by the way, are types of the Man-child ministry. We need to remember what David understood here and then we'll understand that we are not to be fighting with flesh and blood. If we do fight with flesh and blood, we will be fighting against God Himself. So notice what David said next. ***(2Sa.16:10) And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? Because he curseth, and because the Lord hath said unto him, Curse David.*** I know a lot of people would say David's theology would have to have been wrong there, but it wasn't. It was exactly what Job said. ***(Job2:10) But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.*** So Job was right in that what was coming to him was from God. If not, it would not have come. ***(Joh.3:27) John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it have been given him from heaven.*** We know that God is Sovereign and, in this case, He had a purpose in trying David to see if he would turn the other cheek, if he was going to be merciful and so on. God was sending this trial. How often do you think about that when somebody is insulting you? Do you think that God is using that person to try you? If you could remember that in the midst of the trial, it would be extreme-

ly helpful, wouldn't it? **(2Sa.16:10) And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah? Because he curseth, and because the Lord hath said unto him, Curse David; who then shall say, Wherefore hast thou done so?** In other words, "Lord, why are You doing this?" Isn't that really Who you're blaming here? And isn't that Who is really doing this?

(2Sa.16:11) And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, who came forth from my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more [may] this Benjamite now [do it]? let him alone, and let him curse; for the Lord hath bidden him.

The Lord put it in his heart to do this. How about us? Is there anything accidental that happens in our life? We are going to be insulted by people around us. God will use anybody He can use. He will use a vessel of honor and He will even use a vessel of dishonor to do this. If He is using a vessel of honor to make an accusation, then they ought to be in the right. There ought to also be two or three witnesses to substantiate the accusation being made. If He is using a vessel of dishonor, as He used Shimei here, it's for the purpose of trying us to see if we're going to be overcomers, if we're going to turn the other cheek and go to our cross. We can see this was obviously a cross for David, a crucifixion of self. Don't tell me that David's *old man* did not want to rise up here and give Shimei what he so rightly deserved. The more we deny self, the less it can rule us; the weaker it becomes, the less it rules us. The Lord knew that He needed a man on the throne who was in control of self and He was preparing David to do great things.

Anybody whom God prepares to be in His Bride or in His Man-child, or just to be a mature Christian, will go through

God's boot camp where they will have to exercise self-control in all things. As the apostle Paul said, **(1Co.9:27) *But I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected.*** Saul did not exercise self-control in all things. Self got the better of him and self ruled over him. He rebelled against the Word of the Lord and God basically turned him over to those spirits because he was so rebellious and self-willed. And, of course, David could have gone down the same road and been the same kind of king but the Lord was trying him. The Lord had spoken to David in his spirit and he was a man after God's heart, so he wanted to obey the voice of the Spirit on the inside. He had an opportunity to give in to his flesh and feed the old man, and he didn't do it here. He overcame and, of course, he was more dependable because he had proven that he could restrain the flesh, that he didn't have to give in to it. Saul had given in to pride and jealousy in attacking David but David wouldn't even defend himself against a very unrighteous man. He proved to be just the opposite of Saul. **(2Sa.16:12) *It may be that the Lord will look on the wrong done unto me, and that the Lord will requite me good for [his] cursing of me this day.*** That's certainly true. The Lord will definitely bless us, if we can overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). He will try us but there's a blessing waiting for us if we overcome. **(2Sa.16:13) *So David and his men went by the way; and Shimei went along on the hill-side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust. (14) And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary; and he refreshed himself there.*** Of course, that

wasn't the end of David's trial with Shimei. He had opportunity to get even, especially when he was coming back into power and he overcame once again (2 Samuel 19:16-23).

David didn't defend himself but he was good at defending the people and he used the sword to conquer the beasts all around them. We know our sword is the Word of God. Not the physical sword but David was a very capable warrior and I would guess that blood didn't bother him that much, so he could have very well taken out Shimei. **(2Sa.19:15) So the king returned** (This is after the death of Absalom.), **and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to bring the king over the Jordan. (16) And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, who was of Bahurim, hastened and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David. (17) And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went through the Jordan in the presence of the king. (18) And there went over a ferry-boat to bring over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, when he was come over the Jordan.** In other words, he was quick to be the first one there to greet the king. **(2Sa.19:19) And he said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. (20) For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come this day the first of all the**

house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king. (21) But Abishai the son of Zeruah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed? (22) And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? How is it that they were adversaries to him? It reminds me of when Peter was trying to keep Jesus from going to the cross. **(Mat.16:23) But he turned and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men.** Peter did not want to see Jesus go to His cross but Jesus said, **(Joh. 18:37) To this end have I been born.** Everyone, of course, who is a disciple of Jesus, has to take up their cross and follow Him. And anybody who tries to talk us out of our cross, as well-meaning as they might be, they are from the adversary. We generally like to talk ourselves out of the cross but, as Jesus pointed out when Peter tried to talk him out of doing it, that was the devil. In every instance, the one who is trying to talk you out of denying yourself and going to your cross is the devil and here these sons of Zeruah just didn't want to lose their king, nor did they want to see him insulted. They wanted to defend him and they were well-meaning but it was the devil speaking through them. David knew that they were again trying to tempt him to take out Shimei. **(2Sa.19:22) And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel? (23) And the king said unto Shimei,**

Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.

That wasn't really the end of this. Solomon had opportunity to take out Shimei but he gave Shimei one more chance. ***(1Ki.2:36) And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee a house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.*** Solomon gave Shimei that one rule to see if he could restrain himself and, of course, Shimei broke that one rule and Solomon had him put to death at that time. The Lord had vengeance upon Shimei but it was not by the hand of the one whom he had offended. Remember, the Lord said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," and He truly will defend you. He doesn't mind trying you. He doesn't mind bringing you to your cross and teaching you how to deny the old self. He wants to do that and so we will have our own Shimeis to curse us. We should expect to have obnoxious people try us and when it happens, we should realize that this is the Lord. He wants us to be in control of self, like Paul, so that we ourselves will not be rejected. Saul wasn't in control of self. He had not been exercised to control self and he fell. We have to be exercised; we have to bring this body under subjection. Paul said he buffeted his body and brought it under subjection, lest he would be rejected, and we're going to be exercised in this way, too.

The Lord doesn't like the old man. The old man has to die so that the Lord can take over, so we can be mature, so we can walk in the steps of Jesus and, especially, so we can go to our cross by forgiving people. David was a person who was able to forgive. The only way he could do the things that he did was by forgiving people quickly and on the spot. You can't wait until your old flesh takes over and

you have chopped off his head to forgive someone who has offended you. You have to forgive on the spot. We're going to be exercised by people who sometimes should know better and we believe they should know better. Sometimes it's easier to put up with strangers who insult us than with family or friends because we think they, of all people, should certainly know better. They are sometimes a bigger trial for us than strangers. When Shimei insulted David, David was forgiving toward him, but also he was teaching his men a lesson. David was always teaching his men lessons. He was a great teacher and reminds me of Jesus teaching His disciples because David was always sharing revelations, deep understandings, with people who were not walking as closely with the Lord as he was. Praise the Lord for it! David, Joseph, Moses and Jesus were all types of people who resisted the temptation to take things into their own hands. They were all types of the Man-child, whom God is raising up to be a witness and to teach His people in these coming days. Praise God!

CHAPTER SIX

I'd like to talk a little bit more about governmental unforgiveness and the difference between governmental unforgiveness and personal unforgiveness. We've seen that there are occasions when God does not forgive and He also has leadership to whom He has given that authority. ***(Joh.20:23) Whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained.*** The Lord told that to His ordained disciples. He doesn't tell that to everybody because some people are ordained by men and they don't hear His voice. They don't hear His voice and so they don't have authority because our authority is based in the Will of God. I also believe Jesus is speaking about this governmental forgiveness or unforgiveness when He says, ***Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him (Luk.17:3).*** "If he repent" is a condition that needs to be met. This authority is given to God's leadership because there are people who come to the fellowship or go astray in the fellowship of the saints who don't need forgiveness. They need a chastening and God will certainly carry out whatever He speaks through His leadership.

Well, that's the story of the Korah rebellion. ***(Num.16:1) Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son Peleth, sons of Reuben, took [men:]*** (Notice that Korah was a son of Levi, which was the ordained priesthood, but Dathan and Abiram were not in the priesthood.) ***(Num.16:2) and they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Isra-***

el, two hundred and fifty princes of the congregation, called to the assembly, men of renown; (3) and they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron (who were God's ordained authority here), and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy (Well, we'll see about that.), every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?

Now you and I have the advantage of having the Book and, having read it, we know that isn't what happened. Moses didn't want this job; he even tried desperately to get out of it. ***(Exo.3:11) And Moses said unto God, Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? (Exo.4:1) And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice; for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee. (10) And Moses said unto the Lord, Oh, Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; for I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. (13) And he said, Oh, Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. (14) And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses ...*** In other words, he was pleading, "Give it to anybody but me, Lord." He didn't want this job at all, which is what really qualified him for it, but those other men were lusting after the position and the very fact that they could get 250 of the princes of the congregation to side with them shows that some shenanigans were going on behind the scenes.

They obviously weren't obeying the Word of God, just

as they don't obey the Word of God today. **(Mat.18:15) And if thy brother sin against thee, go, show him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. (16) But if he hear [thee] not, take with thee one or two more, that at the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may be established. (17) And if he refuse to hear them, tell it unto the church: and if he refuse to hear the church also, let him be unto thee as the Gentile and the publican.** Well, these men obviously went directly to the church, didn't they? And Moses was rather shocked, as we can tell from his reply, so there was a lot of slander and a lot of factious spirits at work in this rebellion. A factious spirit is someone who has selfish ambitions and is seeking to win followers through causing division. That is what these men were doing, since they were not ordained to the positions that they were lusting after. Let's think about that, folks. The people who had the problem here were the people who were not ordained but wanted to be. They wanted a position of authority and in order to obtain it, they were willing to tear down God's true authority with their slander and rebellion. These factious spirits wanted to usurp the position that was not theirs. They were seeking to cause nothing less than rebellion.

The Bible says, **(Tit.3:10) A factious man after a first and second admonition refuse.** This means if somebody is coming to you and talking against God's ordained authority without going directly to them first, you are not to listen to what they have to say. You tell them to go and speak with that person. Your response should be, "Hey, have you gone and talked to Moses?" "Have you gone and talked with David?" They want to come and dump their

slander on you and if you permit them to do that, you're setting yourself up for trouble, especially if there is no sin in the person who is being accused. In this example, what they accused Moses of was a complete lie. They didn't catch him in any immorality because there was no sin for them to find, but they were claiming that Moses and Aaron were lifting themselves up over the congregation. And now these factious people were in trouble. **(Rom.2:8) But unto them that are factious, and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, [shall] be wrath and indignation.** That's what these people found. They found the wrath and indignation of God. They didn't find any forgiveness whatsoever because God had taken His forgiveness away from them by what He said through Moses and what He said through Aaron.

(Num.16:4) And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face: (5) and he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, In the morning the Lord will show who are his, and who is holy, and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he shall choose will he cause to come near unto him. It was that way from the beginning. Moses went upon the mount; he was the one whose face shone with the glory of God; he was the one God used to part the Red Sea and to do the many miracles through Aaron. How were these people so forgetful about whom God chose to do those things? Did they think Moses did those things? No. They were just blinded by a lust to rule and they didn't mind tearing the true leadership down in order to do that. But the Lord God is the One Who does mind and He did not forgive them; He judged them. **(Num.16:6) This do: take you censers, Korah, and all his company; (7)**

and put fire in them, and put incense upon them before the Lord to-morrow: and it shall be that the man whom the Lord doth choose, he [shall be] holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi. (8) And Moses said unto Korah, Hear now, ye sons of Levi. Now as we just read, Korah was a Levite, while Dathan and Abiram were not, but there was a crowd of people following Korah and some of those were Levites who obviously were wanting to take over the high priesthood. So Levites were ordained but they were not to take the position of the high priest, Who is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:1). Even today, some of those who are ordained are leading God's people astray after themselves and not after the Lord, Who is the High Priest. **(Num.16:8) And Moses said unto Korah, Hear now, ye sons of Levi: (9) [seemeth it but] a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do the service of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them; (10) and that he hath brought thee near, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee? and seek ye the priesthood also?** He was talking about the high priesthood here. **(Num.16:11) Therefore thou and all thy company are gathered together against the Lord.** When God's ordained leadership is in the Will of God and they haven't sinned, then they obviously have the same grace that you have. But when you're coming against them, that means you're considering them not worthy of grace and God will judge you because you are coming against the Lord; you are not coming against man.

Do you remember what Peter said against Ananias and

Sapphira? **(Act.5:3) But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land? (4) While it remained, did it not remain thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thy power? How is it that thou hast conceived this thing in thy heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (5) And Ananias hearing these words fell down and gave up the ghost: and great fear came upon all that heard it. (6) And the young men arose and wrapped him round, and they carried him out and buried him. (7) And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. (8) And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much. And she said, Yea, for so much. (9) But Peter [said] unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to try the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them that have buried thy husband are at the door, and they shall carry thee out. (10) And she fell down immediately at this feet, and gave up the ghost: and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. (11) And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things.**

Then Moses goes on to identify these factious people as murmurers. **(Num.16:11) Therefore thou and all thy company are gathered together against the Lord: and Aaron, what is he that ye murmur against him?** And you remember who it was who died in the wilderness, don't you? That's right – it was the people who murmured against the Lord. **(Exo.16:7) And in the**

morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? (8) And Moses said, [This shall be,] when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord. (Num.11:1) And the people were as murmurers, [speaking] evil in the ears of the Lord: and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and devoured in the uttermost part of the camp. (Psa.106:24) Yea, they despised the pleasant land, They believed not his word, (25) But murmured in their tents, And hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord. (26) Therefore he sware unto them, That he would overthrow them in the wilderness. These people were speaking against God's ordained leadership and being unforgiving and bitter against them, as though Moses and Aaron were the ones doing all this. Moses even said, "And Aaron, what is he that ye murmur against him?" Moses was saying that Aaron was nothing but a vessel through whom God was doing this work, so if you cry against a vessel of the Lord, then you're crying against the Lord. These murmurers, these complainers, these critics were being bitter and unforgiving toward Moses, but the problem wasn't with Moses and the problem wasn't with Aaron. The problem was with these people; they were causing factions within the people of God. Now there is a time for personal forgiveness and there is a time for gov-

ernmental unforgiveness. But here God wasn't going to forgive them and He wasn't going to allow Moses to forgive them for creating division among the people. He was going to speak judgment through Moses and Aaron.

Do you remember Absalom? He usurped the kingdom and it cost him his life. He flattered and "battered-up" the people who came to the gate, and he told them how he would defend them, and he told them how he would judge in their favor, etc., and he caused the people to ignorantly follow him. How did they forget so quickly who David was? How did they forget so quickly how God had delivered Israel through David? How did they forget so quickly that Absalom had no experience whatsoever? All he did was speak ear-tickling words and they were ready to follow him, and they got what they deserved. Well, it's the same situation today. People who haven't walked in the anointing, haven't been ordained, have no signs and wonders following them and who are living in sin, think they can rise up in judgment against someone in leadership who truly has been ordained by the Lord. They're just being critical for the sake of being critical because they're not getting their own selfish ambitions met. They also continue to walk in their sins after becoming Christian and everyone knows they're sinners, yet some people still ignorantly listen to them. If you have selfish ambitions, it can blind you and God can turn you over to the factious spirits of these people to the point where you will do things that don't even make sense. And so there are instances where there has to be governmental unforgiveness.

Moses was willing to administer governmental unforgiveness but he was not willing to administer governmental unforgiveness of himself and nobody should be willing

to do it without the Lord's direction. But with the murmurers, it was clear there was anger, usurping of authority, slander and criticism, all of which was rooted in their unforgiveness. **(Num.16:12) And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab; and they said, We will not come up** (They were rebelling against the authority of God, not of Moses, because Moses didn't do anything of himself.): **(Num.16:13) is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey** (Isn't that manipulation? They were slaves in Egypt! Would you call that a land flowing with milk and honey? How quickly they forget. How quickly they twist things to their own advantage.), **to kill us in the wilderness** (Well, now would they blame Moses if they died in the wilderness for their murmuring or their complaining and rebelling against God? Could they put that on Moses?), **but thou must needs make thyself also a prince over us?** There they go again with their slander, criticism and lies. The spirit in them deserved everything that God was about to give them. **(Num.16:14) Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey.** Now whose fault was that? God said because of their murmuring and complaining that He wasn't going to bring them into that land, so it was their fault and they were trying to blame someone else. Isn't that normally the way? When people want to rebel and are full of unforgiveness and bitterness, then they want to blame others, but it's really their own fault.

(Num.16:14) Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will

not come up. They were rebelling against the voice of the Lord and the Lord was about to have enough of them. **(Num.16:15) And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the Lord, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.** Moses was a very unselfish person and he wasn't using his position to gain from people. They should have been able to see that; the people should have been able to see through these usurpers and what their selfish ambition was all about, but you'd be surprised as to how many people these days are deceived in the same way. Both the evildoers and those following them are deceived. The evildoers are blinded by their ambition and their evil followers are prey to demonic spirits, such as faction. **(Pro.17:4) An evil-doer giveth heed to wicked lips; [And] a liar giveth ear to a mischievous tongue.** The reason people listen is because they are evil. Here they are persecuting Moses and Aaron for doing nothing more than the Will of God, and others like these people do the same thing today because they have been delivered over to their lusts but they can't see it.

(Num.16:16) And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the Lord, thou, and they, and Aaron, to-morrow: (17) and take ye every man his censur, and put incense upon them, and bring ye before the Lord every man his censur, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each his censur. (18) And they took every man his censur, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood at the door of the tent of meeting with Moses and Aaron. Most people think, and I believe they are correct, that incense in type repre-

sents prayer. Moses called it “their offering” and asked the Lord to “respect not thou their offering.” So their offering of incense symbolized prayer that was supposed to waft its way up to God in Heaven and we’re going to find out here whose prayers reach Heaven by who gets their prayers answered. You don’t have to look far to find out about this. The people whom God puts in authority are not powerless. They have exercised authority and they have seen the gifts of God; they have seen the signs and wonders manifested. The Lord doesn’t ordain people without power or send anybody without power. The Lord ordains people who are people of faith, people who had to learn to live by faith and to trust in the Lord. These are the people whom the Lord confirms with signs and wonders following. And, if these are the people whose incense so obviously reaches Heaven, shouldn’t you be able to judge by that? Shouldn’t you be able to discern by that? You would think so, but that’s not the case with people who have selfish ambition because they’re turned over to demon spirits and they can’t see or hear.

You don’t want anybody in the position of Moses and Aaron who can’t see or hear. That’s the whole problem here. ***(Num.16:19) And Korah assembled all the congregation against them unto the door of the tent of meeting: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the congregation.*** When did all the congregation follow a false high priest and false ministers? Well, we see it here with Moses; we know it happened with David when the people followed Absalom; we know it happened with Jesus; and we know it is going to happen with the Man-child. Every time there is a Man-child, we see this happening and I wonder if this is because the anointing that is on

the Man-child is very offensive to carnal people, so they're willing to do anything to get rid of him. Satan can't stand that anointing and neither can carnal people. It doesn't matter if they call themselves "Christians"; they can't see or understand. You know, the closer you get to the Lord, the more enemies you're going to have. It was God's people who sold Joseph into bondage; it was God's people who ran David out of Jerusalem; it was God's people who crucified Jesus; and on and on. Should we expect it? Of course. Will God's people rebel in the wilderness? Yes, there are those who will rebel and they will meet with the same outcome as we are reading here. It is a warning from God. And are there some who are rebelling even now? Yes.

(Num.16:20) And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, (21) Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. So God is going to wipe out the whole congregation because "an evil-doer giveth heed to wicked lips." They were guilty. ***(Num.16:22) And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?*** Moses and Aaron interceded, just as their heart was made to do, and God heard them, but God didn't answer their question and I think that was because it wasn't quite right. The congregation was not guiltless; they had listened to rebellion and usurpation, yet Moses and Aaron had said, "Shall one man sin?" It is true that one man, Korah, started this rebellion against God's ordained authority. He was sneaking around behind the scenes in order to gain disciples, with the first ones being Dathan and Abiram, but they also convinced 250 of the princes of Israel to join them and then the crowd

of the congregation followed them. Could that ever happen again? Yes, it could, because this is a type and a shadow of the end-time. We need to learn our lesson now and take the warning seriously that has been given us here in the Scriptures. **(Num.16:23) And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, (24) Speak unto the congregation ...** See, here was God's answer. God had said, "Okay, step aside. I'm going to wipe them out," but they interceded and here is God's answer. **(Num.16:24) Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** God is saying, "Separate yourselves from these men." Why is this? Well, He tells us the same thing, except in more depth here in these verses: **(2Co.6:17) Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, (18) And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (Rev. 18:4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues: (5) for her sins have reached even unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.** The Lord demands a separation between you and the rebels – those who are not ordained of God, who are not confirmed with God's signs and wonders, who are usurping authority because of their selfish ambition. He demands you separate from them because there is a transference of spirits. We saw there was a transference of spirits from Korah to Dathan to Abiram, and through them to 250 princes of the congregation, and then on to the congregation. The spirits were transferred

through the words Korah, Dathan and Abiram spoke, through their attitude, etc.

(Num.16:25) And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. Oh, praise God! The elders of Israel followed him. ***(Num.16:26) And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs*** ... Notice it's the same thing He says in 2 Corinthians 6:17: "Touch no unclean thing." In other words, "Don't receive anything from these people" because there are spirits that come along with that, blinding spirits, that capture your flesh and bring you into submission. If you disobey Matthew 18:15 by not going to the elder first when you think he has sinned, and you go directly to the congregation instead, as Korah, Dathan and Abiram did, then you're asking for God to let that transference of spirits from them to you happen. There's also this warning: ***(1Ti.5:19) Against an elder receive not an accusation, except at [the mouth of] two or three witnesses.*** That's talking about sin, but Moses and Aaron weren't in any sin. It's just that Korah, Dathan and Abiram were lusting after a position and they didn't like the job that Moses and Aaron were doing. It was God Who had decided that the Israelites were going to stumble through this wilderness for 40 years and die there because of their stubborn, self-willed rebellion, and now they were trying to blame Moses and Aaron for their own stubborn, self-willed rebellion and murmuring. So finally God said to the Israelites, "Okay, I am not going to wipe you out under one condition and here is the condition." ***(Num.25:26) And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents***

of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. How do you become consumed in someone else's sins when you listen to them? It's very simple, just as Jesus said: ***(Joh.6:63) It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life.***

A good example of this is how a cult leader is able to pass on his spirit and his life to his adherents because they're listening to him so intently. They receive the same spirit that he has received and it's passed on, just like Korah passed it on to Dathan and Abiram, and then to the 250 princes of the congregation, and then ultimately it was passed on to the congregation. Could something spread like that today? Yes, it still does today and that's why we are given this stipulation. That's why you separate from them and don't touch anything they have, don't accept anything that they have, "lest ye be consumed in all their sins." That lets you know a transference of their spirits is going to happen and I've watched it happen, folks; I have experience in this, although not on this large a scale. I have watched it happen when people listen illegally to someone and their spirit gets in them. You might even say we have had "wonderful" demonstrations of this where the evil spirit of the first person gets in the second person and they turn and speak illegally and act illegally to others. Then that evil spirit continues to travel in a geometric progression throughout the congregation until the authority of God stops it. And, in some cases, it has to be the judgment of God that stops it.

(Num.16:27) So they gat them up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (this saved their life), ***on every side: and Dathan and Abiram***

came out, and stood at the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little ones. (28) And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works; for [I have] not [done them] of mine own mind. Of course, that's what they were accusing Moses and Aaron of, which is totally ludicrous. Could Moses part the Red Sea? Could Moses bring the manna out of Heaven? Could Moses bring the water out of the rock? Who was doing these signs and wonders? Was it Moses and Aaron? That's ludicrous, but that's how blind people become. God can do awesome signs and wonders through the one He has ordained and yet people will quickly forget it because of their own selfish ambition, because of their evil spirit of faction. That's why God says to separate from any people who have selfish ambition and are seeking to divide the body after themselves. If they're slandering someone without two or three witnesses, separate from them. Don't let that spirit get in you. Here Moses was about to administer governmental unforgiveness, folks, and it wasn't Moses at all; it was God because Moses did nothing of his own mind. So Moses said under the anointing, **(Num.16:29) If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the Lord hath not sent me.** Well, that's a hard thing to say because in order for the Lord to fulfill that, He's going to have to wipe out these guys. They were attempting to destroy the body of Christ because of their selfish ambition but the Lord wasn't going to let them get away with it. The Lord, through Moses, wasn't forgiving them. Moses fell on his face in intercession, so we see that he didn't have personal unforgiveness toward them, but the Lord was not going to let them

get away with it, as we read. ***(Joh.20:23) Whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained.*** There is a governmental unforgiveness and when those who are ordained of God do not give you forgiveness, then God does not forgive you; that's what He said in that verse. And, if you're in willful rebellion, you don't have any forgiveness from God. ***(Heb.10:26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries.***

Everything these men did was rooted in unforgiveness and selfish ambition, so now these men were about to meet with judgment because they did not have forgiveness, therefore they did not receive forgiveness. Isn't that what the Lord said? He said if you don't forgive, you are not forgiven. God was going to judge them and He was going to do it through Moses; and even then, the people would blame Moses. They saw the fire come down out of Heaven. You wouldn't think they could blame Moses for it but that's what happens when a person gets demon-possessed. Can a whole congregation be that way? Yes, they can. ***(Num.16:30) But if the Lord make a new thing, and the ground open its mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down alive into Sheol; then ye shall understand that these men have despised the Lord.*** And that's the point: when you despise the vessels of the Lord through whom the Lord is speaking and acting, then you despise the Lord. It's not the vessels that are important. Who is Mo-

ses and who is Aaron? And who are God's ordained ministers? They're nobody; they're just vessels through whom the Lord does His work. As Paul said, **(1Co.15:10) *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not found vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*** He wasn't taking any credit and he knew we didn't deserve any credit, but we received mercy and grace from God. **(Num.16:31) *And it came to pass, as he made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them; (32) and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. (33) So they, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into Sheol: and the earth closed upon them, and they perished from among the assembly.***

You remember what happened when the Israelites sent spies into the Promised Land. **(Num.13:32) *And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had spied out unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof (Notice that the land "eateth up the inhabitants."); and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.*** So they're big men in the world, but the earth was swallowing them up. As you know, the earth obviously represents our flesh. Adam's body was made from the dust of the earth and to be swallowed up by your flesh is to be consumed with your lusts, to be overcome and not able to see and understand the very simple things that Numbers

16 points out. **(Jud.12) twice dead, plucked up by the roots. (1Ti.5:6) She that giveth herself to pleasure is dead while she liveth.** And here they were, going down into Sheol alive, dead while they lived! Are there people who walk around who are dead? Yes, they're dead. They have no life in them. They're full of selfish ambition, anger and unforgiveness, all of which is against the Lord, not just against His anointed, who are nothing more than His vessels. They're against the Lord; they speak against the Lord and the land is swallowing them up. The old flesh is swallowing them up. So there are people who, through unforgiveness, are unforgiven. God does not forgive them and, in this case, He judged them. He permitted them to be totally consumed by the earth. Oh, they might be great and famous men in the congregation, like these were. It didn't make any difference to Him. He had them totally consumed and devoured by the earth.

These men are people who are completely given over to their lusts. Their flesh has totally consumed them; they are given totally over to their lusts and their desires. They can't see anything spiritual. They can't recognize Jesus Christ in His servants. They just live according to the lusts of their flesh. **(Num.16:34) And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them; for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up.** So God gives demonstrations in order to put the fear of the Lord back in His people who have been so foolish as to murmur against the Lord and against His ordained leadership. **(Num.16:35) And fire came forth from the Lord, and devoured the two hundred and fifty men that offered the incense.** God not only did not accept their sacrifice and He did not hear their prayers, which are represented by in-

cense, but He also sent destruction upon them. You mean the same God that we know did this? Yes and you'd better fear Him, too. There are people right now being turned over to a reprobate mind, being swallowed up by their own flesh so that they don't know good from bad. They're dying. They're entering into spiritual death. God gave them life but they're twice dead and plucked up by the roots. What does it mean, "plucked up by the roots"? It means they're no longer in His Kingdom. It doesn't matter that they sit on a pew next to you. It doesn't matter if they get in the pulpit. It doesn't matter because they're dead and they're just going through the motions.

(Num.16:36) And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, (37) Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are holy, (38) even the censers of these sinners against their own lives ... Can you imagine that the prayers of the wicked could be against God's people, against His anointing and that God would turn those prayers back upon them? That God would bring destruction upon them? Does it happen? It happens. I have seen the very people who criticized, who cast me down, who slandered me, come under judgment, time after time. It happens. And he's saying here, even the censers of these sinners were against their own lives, even their prayers were against their own lives. They judged those whom God did not judge. ***(Num.16:38) Even the censers of these sinners against their own lives; and let them be made beaten plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the Lord; therefore they are holy; and they shall be a sign unto the chil-***

dren of Israel. Yes, and the sign, of course, is a reminder to submit yourselves unto the Lord, to obey the rules. If you rebel against the rules, you can expect nothing but demon possession.

(Num.16:39) And Eleazar the priest took the brazen censers, which they that were burnt had offered; and they beat them out for a covering of the altar, (40) to be a memorial unto the children of Israel, to the end that no stranger, that is not of the seed of Aaron (in other words, not an ordained Levite), **come near to burn incense before the Lord; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the Lord spake unto him by Moses.** So there's a lesson that we're supposed to learn because a memorial is something that you're supposed to remember. And yet today there are people who are not remembering this and they're doing exactly in the spirit what's going on here. **(Num.16:41) But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured ...** There's that word "murmured" again. It always brought death to them. All that murmuring, all that crying and complaining, and their griping and their criticizing, and their slandering – the Lord can't stomach it, to put it in common language. **(Num.16:41) But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the Lord.** That was another ridiculous slander because it was the Lord Who did it and He gave them proof. It was spoken by Moses, "If these men die the common death of all men and aren't swallowed up by the earth, then you'll know that the Lord hasn't spoken through me." What a demonstration right in front of them that the

Lord was speaking through Moses! What a demonstration!

God gives demonstrations like that all the time but still people forget them very quickly. **(Num.16:42) And it came to pass, when the congregation was assembled against Moses and against Aaron** (Wow! They forgot very quickly, didn't they?), **that they looked toward the tent of meeting: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared. (43) And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting. (44) And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, (45) Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.** Once again, they had forgiveness toward the people. It wasn't a personal thing with them. They weren't the ones who judged the people; it wasn't Moses. They had forgiveness toward the people; they did not want to see them destroyed and they interceded.

(Num.16:46) And Moses said unto Aaron, Take thy censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and lay incense thereon, and carry it quickly unto the congregation, and make atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun. So the Lord spoke judgment against the congregation and Aaron was to intercede with his incense to stop it. **(Num.16:47) And Aaron took as Moses spake, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on the incense, and made atonement for the people. (48) And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.** Which is wonderful, except for the dead people.

It didn't help them, did it? And it'll be that way every time, folks. Every time there's a rebellion, there will be people irrevocably dead. Whether you want to call it physical or spiritual, it can be both, but you're not going to bring them back. So he stood between them and God heard.

(Num.16:49) Now they that died by the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, besides them that died about the matter of Korah. So it was a big event. That's interesting. The Lord smote that many people because of one man giving into sin and the rest of them not being holy enough not to let him do it to them. It just went on and on. This spirit was transferred into them through the words that they were receiving, through no common sense of their own, through their own murmuring and complaining. ***(Num.16:50) And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tent of meeting: and the plague was stayed.*** What an object lesson! Afterward, when they took the rods and laid them up, the rod of Levi with Aaron's name on it budded. ***(Num.17:6) And Moses spake unto the children of Israel; and all their princes gave him rods, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. (7) And Moses laid up the rods before the Lord in the tent of the testimony. (8) And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and put forth buds, and produced blossoms, and bare ripe almonds.*** And, of course, this was to show the fruit that was born to the authority that God had given to Aaron. It's the same today. God will ensure that those who

are ordained of the Lord will bear fruit from their authority; there will be fruit born to their works and all the rest are sinners. Those who rebel are sinners. Those who usurp authority from their own selfish ambition are sinners and God will deal with them. He will judge them.

So we plainly see here the difference between personal forgiveness and governmental forgiveness. We don't have a guarantee of governmental forgiveness, but individually, we always have to forgive because we've all been sinners. God gave grace unto us and we, of course, want grace. If you want grace, you have to give grace.

(Jas.2:13) For judgment is without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy: mercy glorieth against judgment. If you make yourself a judge, you will be judged. Only God has a right to judge and it's Him doing the judging, but God uses people to speak the words. He's no sinner and He's never been a sinner, so He can judge, but you and I have been sinners and, therefore, we cannot judge. God can judge and He can use men who are holy to do that. ***(2Co.10:6) And being in readiness to avenge all disobedience, when your obedience shall be made full.*** When your obedience is made full, Paul said. God's not going to use anybody to judge when they're unholy.

I've seen that, most often, the people who are judging have lived a sinful life, even as Christians, and their sins are known to the people around them, yet, they get away with it. They rebel against the Word of God because when you give them the Word of God, they say, "It doesn't apply to me. It doesn't apply in this case." Well, you may get away with that for a short time, but ***(Rom.12:19) Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith***

the Lord. You may be able to convince some people that it doesn't apply to you but, eventually, it's going to catch up to you. When God is through crucifying His Moseses and Aarons, then it's going to be the time of the people who put them on the cross. It's like Job's situation. Job went through his fiery trials but when God was through crucifying Job and squeezing that last little bit of self-righteousness out of him, He turned on these men who were facetiously called Job's "friends," but who were persecuting Job. And so it will be. God is just an awesome God!

CHAPTER SEVEN

In this chapter, I want to share with you on deliverance from rejection and its fear. This is very real to me. I lived it. I've been there. I was kept under this bondage when I was young because it was my inheritance through the blood of my parents – not a good inheritance, but a very tormenting inheritance. I know many people who are tormented by spirits of rejection and who earnestly desire deliverance, but we truly can't do anything about what we have inherited through the blood until after we have come to the Lord and know and believe the Gospel.

If you are laboring under this rejection spirit, know that God loves you and He has a plan to set you free. Many millions of people are so wounded inside that they don't even want to examine the real cause of their pain. It's almost like they're saying, "Leave us alone and let us serve the Egyptians," just as the Israelites said when Moses was sent back to Egypt and their problems were ramped up after Moses spoke with Pharaoh. The Israelites would rather have remained in their bondage than face the pain that it was going to take to get their deliverance. Well, folks, I am telling you that you don't have any choice. You need deliverance if you want to grow up in God and come into the maturity of Jesus Christ. The pain that you are going through is coming from demons who, of course, don't want you to come against them. The pain they cause is a self-preservation tactic they use to keep you in bondage.

Christian, you are not wrestling with flesh and blood: ***(Eph.6:12) ... but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual [hosts] of***

wickedness in the heavenly [places]. The demons are trying to make you think that these thoughts in your mind are your thoughts, but they're not. If you're laboring under rejection or fear of rejection, those are not your thoughts. That's a demon speaking and he is tormenting you. The demons have deceived you into thinking men are your enemies so you'll leave them alone and be a submissive host for them to use in their divide-and-conquer tactics. Their plan is to break up every family and fellowship because that way they can pick off the lambs one by one. It's what they do best. They cause a lot of misery and divide a multitude of families, which is why we need to know the Gospel. When I speak on this subject, I know that these spirits will speak to their hosts and say, "See, he's talking about you," and the person will feel that pain of rejection or fear of rejection again. But we must get to the real problem and the real solution, in spite of the pain, so that those of you who do believe the Gospel will be totally set free. I am telling you in the name of Jesus, it is the Word of God. You will be totally set free!

And if you don't have this problem of rejection or fear of rejection, then you know someone who does because it's just that prevalent. You may possibly have someone in your family who has this problem. Of course, as with any other problem, there is deliverance, but there are Christians who go through their whole life without getting delivered of this. They never grow up in God and are divided away from their brethren and families. They are used, too, as vessels of dishonor by these demons to cause even more division. Those of you who do not believe the Gospel will end up destroying and eventually will be destroyed yourself. There is no way to avoid it. You are a "porcupine"

Christian. You're wounded and you wound everyone who gets close to you. When someone deals with you, they have to be oh-so-careful or they will get stabbed. When someone tries to help you, it's like a man who finds a spiny cocklebur on his socks and when he tries to remove it, that cocklebur becomes painfully stuck in his hand. So he quickly tries to pull it out, only to have the barbs become stuck in the other hand. That's what a cocklebur does and that's what it's like to deal with a "porcupine" Christian. They will "stick" you. They don't care that you're trying to help them; they will just "stick" you. When we were in darkness, we couldn't do anything about what we inherited through the gene pool, but we can now.

I would like to share with you from my own painful experience with these demons of rejection and fear of rejection, so I can show you God's solution. My own dad inherited a spirit of rejection from his dad, my grandfather, and he passed it on to me by association and by blood. I dearly loved my dad but in my mind I felt I just couldn't please him and it was because of these spirits that I had inherited. They made me feel that I just couldn't please him since he couldn't show any love or favor to me for his own "fear of rejection," which is a companion spirit to the "rejection" spirit. He was a stern disciplinarian but he couldn't show any love with it, so by association and because I had inherited this by the blood, I grew up with feelings of rejection, which were very emotionally painful. This rejection spirit brings feelings of being unloved, unwanted, disliked, looked down upon, incapability, feelings of loneliness, even while being in the midst of a crowd, etc. Of course, this spirit wants you to believe that these are your thoughts. **(Pro.18:14)**
The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; But

a broken spirit who can bear? I was tormented by recurring thoughts from this spirit that I was rejected because of what my dad or some other person said or did to make light of me, or criticize me, or correct me.

Correction, although necessary for growth, is always seen and felt as painful rejection by a person who has this spirit. They always read correction as rejection and it feels painful to them. If you haven't experienced it, this is what happens and when you try to correct these people, you'll know that it's painful to them. They won't want to hear it; they will turn away from it. This is a terrible trap for them because being angry at correction ultimately makes one a fool. ***(Ecc.7:9) Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*** You don't have any choice. You have to be delivered of this spirit and Jesus has already done it for you. Yes, it might take a little pain, but if you take the right steps, you will be delivered of it and you will be free. This spirit blows minor correction or criticism all out of proportion to actuality with its lies and by constantly bringing these things to remembrance. Some people will literally shake their heads when these painful thoughts come. They can't emotionally deal with them. They don't have any hope of deliverance, which I want to give you today, so they attempt to quiet these thoughts and put them out of their head, but the demons will not let them. The demons will not let them put these thoughts out of their head. That's the problem.

This constant pain programs the host into a deadly spiral of receiving additional spirits of unforgiveness, frustration, hopelessness, depression, anger and sometimes even retaliation, or it goes the other way to suicide. When you fall into sin, you never fall into just one sin; it keeps on

escalating. I personally never had any suicidal thoughts, but I usually got down to the depression and anger. Rarely did I do any retaliation, but a lot of people do. Rejection is the doorkeeper spirit and it opens the doors for these other things. This is all unloaded by the host onto the particular individual who is felt to be the culprit, the source of their pain, because the spirits make the host believe that the problem is never ever them. They never accept responsibility for the problem. It's you, it's your fault no matter what. Everyone else can know it's them but they refuse any blame for fear of more rejection. They don't want to feel that pain, so they're manipulated into this way of dealing with it, a way of denial. This is another self-defense mechanism of the demons in them. Sadly, some people go beyond fear to paranoia about what they perceive everyone is thinking and saying about them. When this perceived offense is unloaded onto the perceived culprit, that poor person is at a loss for words, wondering what just happened and what is wrong with this person who is accusing them. Little do they know it's a coven of evil spirits warring with and through this host in order to bring division and cause them much pain. The host is equally dismayed, wondering why this perceived culprit does not understand they have offended him or her. And so two people are totally divided as the demons laugh at them. I feel greatly for people who have this problem because I've been there, so I want to try and help them.

One method the demons use is called "the psychology of the transference" by modern medicine, but all it really amounts to is what I like to call a "switcheroo." For instance, if a son feels rejected by his father, the demons will equate a father figure later in life with the real or perceived

rejection by the son's father. The son won't know what's going on; the son won't realize that down in his psyche he is seeing this person as his father and relating to him as his father. The father figure then becomes the target and he will wonder, "What in the world just happened?" as the son unloads his emotional baggage on him. Or a daughter may feel, whether it was real or imagined, that she is rejected by her father. Many years later she will equate her father with her husband and he will become her target. Their relationship will suffer and her husband will wonder, "What just hit my family?" But he has no idea that he's dealing with demons. It's a vicious, demonic cycle that never stops until families and churches have been destroyed and, ultimately, the host, too. No, it never stops, unless you accept God's provision and do what He tells you to do. You may ask, "How can I obey when I'm being ruled by these spirits?" Well, you will be able to do the things I'm going to tell you to do; you really can do them.

As a young man, I didn't realize I was trying to ease the pain of rejection with alcohol and drugs. My dad was just like me. He tried to ease the pain with alcohol for a short time. After I became a Christian, I commanded this spirit of alcoholism out of him and it left him immediately. Of course, he didn't know anything about deliverance, but he knew what being drunk was and he knew that when he got drunk, sometimes he cried and he was in pain. I was so glad as a baby Christian that I commanded that spirit to come out of him and it did. He was thankful to God that He even cared about him enough to do this. Many people with rejection see God like they saw their father. They don't know that our God is a good Father, a loving Father, and He is not rejecting them. God wants to reveal His provision

for deliverance to them. Many people with drug, alcohol, sex, food, or other problems need to be delivered of unforgiveness and rejection so they can release these crutches and false comforts that they use to cover up the source of their problem. You can deal with the effects or you can deal with the source, but if you don't deal with the source, the problem will come back.

Having my dad's fear of rejection caused me to build a spiritual wall around myself for fear that, if I let myself be known, or let myself love outwardly, I would be rejected by others. Most people who have spirits of rejection or fear of rejection are hiding behind a mask and I was separated from everybody I needed to be close to for fear of being hurt. If anyone tried to help me, I became frustrated and angry with their questions about my personal life because I felt they wouldn't like who I really was. I always desired and sought my dad's acceptance but never really felt I had it, so now I felt rejection, fear of rejection, frustration and anger about people who were much more normal than I and who just wanted to help me. In my mind, I turned their attempts to find out my problems and help me into attacks against me. These demons had me in a sullen, stand-offish trap and I would have died there if the Lord had not come to me and shown me their lies. I learned of the sovereignty of God and I learned to pity and forgive others as I wanted to be forgiven. I learned it was I who was deceived and not they. This delivered me from the wall I had built all around myself with the demons' help. When I had these spirits, they made it painful for me to be around good people who could help me and the spirits lied to me about them. Instead, the spirits made me comfortable when I was around people who had the same spirits that I did so that I wouldn't

get deliverance because we were transferring the demons between us through our association. A person with rejection likes to be around other people who have rejection. That way you don't see them as being better than you.

When I raised my own children, some of whom also inherited rejection through the blood, I didn't like bringing them around my father because I saw that these spirits strengthened in my children when they associated with the spirits in my father. There was a transference of spirits through association, although when they got away from my father, this subsided. I recognized what was happening and I raised my children as Christians, but when they got out on their own, some of them went their own way. They became cold toward the Lord and began to manifest the spirits inherited from both sides of our family. The Lord is the only One Who can really break the genetic curse that is passed on from generation to generation. **(Exo.20:5) ... For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me.** My children are like a lot of other children. Even though they are raised as Christians and know the Bible, they want to "try their wings" once they leave home and that's when your fleshly, physical inheritance is going to catch up to you. Well, my children inherited rejection and fear of rejection from both Mary and me. They got it from both sides of our family. Of course, I've told them to forgive and they will be delivered.

You know, one reason why we are delivered over to pain is to cause us to seek the salvation of the Lord. Some people think that living in the world is about "all kinds of rosy" but you find out soon enough that the curse you've inherited

is very painful, which it should be. It's like going to jail. You're not supposed to enjoy jail. You're supposed to be so miserable that you want to get out of there and you want to do right, you want to walk straight so you never have to go back.

The Lord has shown me that many of the ministers who have attacked me or our ministry have done so because they were infected with these spirits and are seeking a place God has not given them. Although not ordained by the Lord, they seek to be in the ministry out of selfish and, many times, egotistical desires. It's easy to startup a ministry nowadays; with the Internet, anyone can share knowledge that they have gained from others and before you know it, they've claimed a title, yet no one knows where they came from. A lot of people are claiming the title of "minister" when they haven't been given that position, not even by Babylon or the world religious system and definitely not by the Lord. These people don't teach against bad doctrines and principles; they teach against individuals by name, which is very seldom found to be done in the New Testament. This was never done by Jesus and only once by Paul (1 Timothy 1:20) and once by John (3 John 9). In those two cases, these men were causing great destruction to the local body because of their own ego and rebellion against the Lord. A person who has a spirit of rejection loves to point out people and fight against people. They don't point out and fight against false doctrines. They feel rejected, so they're going to reject others because that is another part of the spirit. The reason these self-ordained, or in some cases Babylon-ordained, preachers choose certain men to rail at is because, in a perverse way, this soothes their own ego with a feeling that they're better than someone else and so

they say it very loudly.

Why do they do this? Well, those who have rejection spirits many times desire and seek what they don't feel they are getting from others. They want acceptance, esteem, respect, even worship, all of which are the opposite of rejection. This leads them to submit to the world so that the world won't reject them. In other words, they will seek to please people in order to avoid the possibility of rejection, but they're not who they perceive themselves to be and not who they want others to believe they are. It's nothing but a terrible trap and deception for those who follow them. If they don't feel they get respect from you because what you teach is against their wicked lifestyle, they will attack and belittle you to make themselves feel better and make sure their followers won't listen to you. They are divisive. They are sectarian in their spirit and they separate their followers from anybody who is perceived as a threat to them. This, of course, is also a perverse way to gain esteem in their own eyes and in the eyes of others who are like them. Birds of a feather flock together and people who don't have enough discernment to see through what is going on are usually people who are in the same kind of trap. ***(Mic.3:5) Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people to err; that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and whoso putteth not into their mouths (or feeds their egos and wallets), they even prepare war against him: (6) Therefore it shall be night unto you, that ye shall have no vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them.*** So there's no good promise to those who are used by these spirits to bring

division to the church and who are not forgiving toward others. They do not obey Romans 14 about not judging a brother according to your doctrine. They aren't willing to let a brother grow in his doctrine until he learns better, nor will they pray for him to grow and learn better. They're quick to judge and, of course, they're being judged as they judge because if you don't forgive, then you are not forgiven. ***(Mat.18:35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.*** When you see these people, pray for them. Like Paul, they can be delivered and become a great witness.

The Lord moved me to write this book right after I began to realize just how big this rejection problem is among Christians. That very day, I was put in contact with a young man who was a drug addict. He wanted deliverance because it was ruining his relationship with everyone, including his wife. As I spoke to him, I felt that the drugs weren't the foundational problem. A house isn't built from the roof down; it's built from the foundation up, so you always want to go to the foundation. Well, I asked him what kind of mental pain he was experiencing that was causing him to seek relief in drugs and he initially said that he wasn't sure. Then, because of my own experience, I asked him if there was anyone whom he was not forgiving and I asked him if he felt overcorrected and under-loved by anyone. He immediately named his dad, who had recently died, and his grandfather, who had left him without emotional support to deal with the death of his father. He said his dad was constantly correcting him and he couldn't take it, plus his dad was at one time an alcoholic. I told him that his dad had passed on a spirit of rejection to him through con-

stant correction without the ability to show love and also through the bloodline. He answered, “You hit the nail on the head,” although it wasn’t me; it was the Lord guiding me. I then explained to him that he was trying to cover up or get relief from the mental and emotional pain of a rejection spirit through his drug use. “You should forgive and pity your father,” I said, “because he was also in bondage to rejection and didn’t know how to be free, but turned to alcohol to relieve the pain.” And we really can’t judge people like that, can we? Once you realize the pain and trouble they’re going through, it’s hard to judge them. So I asked him to pray a prayer of forgiveness for both his dad and his grandfather, and when he did this, I commanded rejection and fear of rejection to leave him in Jesus’ name, which they did. He had labored under their bondage for years and he had been delivered over to the tormentors due to having unforgiveness, just as Jesus said would happen. After this, we were able to command the spirits of addiction to leave him and they did. When we talked again the next day, he was feeling greatly relieved and had come off the drugs. He was even seeking to become a disciple of Jesus and to fellowship with the brethren. He said, “I wanted to let you know that my sickness has passed. Thank You, Lord, and thank you, David. Thank you for your help. You guys saved my life.” Jesus saved his life through his forgiveness and faith. Later, his mom told me, “I can see the son I haven’t seen for quite some time and I praise the Lord for that.” It’s true; these spirits turn you into another person – somebody who is really hard to deal with.

As a young man, I never forgave from the heart, which led me to reject others in return. I was, therefore, delivered over to the tormentors, as Jesus said. (**Mat.18:32**) **Then**

his lord called him unto him, and saith to him, Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me (He is talking about the debt of sins against the Lord.): (33) shouldest not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee? (34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.

Jesus doesn't lie. What He said here is an automatic license for the devil to torment you, if you don't forgive. The devil knows when he has this right. He knows when you are not forgiven and he torments you, and his demons will continue to torment you, until you take that right away from him. This is necessary because you can't be saved while you are holding on to unforgiveness. If you don't forgive, you are not forgiven; that is the very foundation of salvation. If you want to take away the demons' rights over you, you need to forgive and you need to believe that Jesus delivered you from them at the Cross. That's the key. ***(Col.1:13) Who delivered us*** (it has already been done) ***out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love.*** Friend, if you will be sure to forgive everyone and exercise your faith toward God's promises, you will be a new person who is free to love and to associate with good people. I say that because so many of these people don't feel comfortable around good people and don't associate with good people. When they're around good people, they feel convicted.

You may believe that a person's sins are cast into the depths of the sea to be remembered no more (Micah 7:19)

and that's true, as long as you walk with the Lord. But when a person does not forgive, their past sins are remembered. The Lord can dredge them back up and judge that person for their sins. ***(Eze.21:24) Therefore thus saith the Lord: Because ye have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered ...*** So even though we have a covering and the covering is the blood of Jesus Christ, Who is the propitiation for our sins (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10), here the Lord says you are uncovered and here's the reason: ***(Heb.10:26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries. (Eze.21:24) Therefore thus saith the Lord: Because ye have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered, so that in all your doings your sins do appear; because that ye are come to remembrance, ye shall be taken with the hand.*** Meaning, of course, you'll be chastened for your sins.

Do you remember what Jesus taught when the disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray? ***(Mat.6:12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And bring us not into temptation (Because if you don't forgive, you will be brought into temptation.), but deliver us from the evil [one]. (14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*** You know,

it's best to learn to forgive immediately and not drag it around for days, months or, in some cases, years. I pray you will forgive whatever you believe anyone has done to you. In some cases, it may be just plain deception, but if you'll believe what the Word of God says and repent, then you'll forgive whatever anyone has done to you. That way, you'll be forgiven and the tormentors will have no authority to hold you in bondage ever again. If you have suffered from these spirits, please know that God loves you. He wants you to be free to follow Him and not these demons. Right now, right where you are, you can be delivered. Go to the Father and tell Him that you're making a conscious decision with your will to forgive each person who you believe has wronged you and ask Him to take the emotions of unforgiveness and bitterness from your heart because only the Lord can do that. You can say something like, "Father, with my will I forgive (so-and-so) and I ask You to take the emotions of unforgiveness and bitterness from my heart. I ask You to forgive and bless them to know You in all Your fullness. I ask you to restore them from any damage I may have done to them." When you pray for someone, it helps you to forgive them and it helps God to take the negative emotions out of your heart.

Now you need to take the authority given to you by Jesus, Who said, ***(Mar.16:17) And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons.*** Many people ask me, "Can you cast demons out of yourself?" The answer is yes but it's always good to have others around you to agree with you and exercise faith. People looking from the outside in can also be helpful in that they may discern something that you don't discern, if they are Spirit-filled believers who are able to

exercise discernment of other spirits. So take your authority by speaking aloud, "I command you, spirits of rejection, fear of rejection, frustration, hopelessness, depression, anger, retaliation and suicide, to leave me now in Jesus' name." You also can command any other spirits you discern that need to be cast out.

Next, come into agreement with me, according to the Bible, that this is done. ***(Mat.18:19) Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father who is in heaven. (Mar.11:23) Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou taken up and cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he saith cometh to pass; he shall have it. So*** when you speak it and believe it comes to pass, you will have it. When you speak to a demon and you know the Lord Jesus has given you authority over these demons, they have to obey you. If you have forgiven, they have to obey you. ***(Mar.11:24) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*** Praise the Lord! You did receive this at the Cross. You are delivered out of the power of darkness at the Cross. It's already done and you don't have to talk God into it. It is done.

Finally, go and confess your deliverance before men, as we are told to do. ***(Rom.10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.*** Oh, praise the Lord!

(Mat.10:32) Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. (33) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven. We know that faith without works is dead (James 2:20); therefore, if you believe that God gave you deliverance at the Cross, you need to go forth and speak it. You need to give thanks to God for it and tell people about it. And, of course, you need to tell people that you're sorry for the way you treated them. It will relieve their heart and do them great good because many of them may have things against you that are your fault, so ask them to forgive you.

Understand that you are not necessarily claiming guilt when you ask someone to forgive you. You do it because they need to forgive you for their own sakes. Ask them to forgive you and you'll have a new life with Jesus. You don't need to go through the rest of your life in bondage to these things. They have ruined your life and they have ruined the lives of people around you. Many people are hurt because of the way you treated them, but the demons made you feel justified in what you did. They made you feel justified in holding grudges against them, justified in stiff-arming them, and so on. That's what these demons do. They make you feel justified but you know what the Bible says, that if you don't forgive, you won't be forgiven, and if you're not forgiven, the demons have a legal right to torment you. So concentrate on what the Bible says so you can be delivered. Do as the Bible says; cast down vain imaginations and everything that these spirits speak to you (2 Corinthians 10:5). Cast it down in the name of Jesus and accept the deliverance that the Lord has given you. And walk in the steps

of Jesus as His disciple. Amen.

I would like to close this teaching by praying with the UBM elders for everyone who will read this.

Father, we thank You for a mighty miracle of reaching out and touching our brethren, Lord, who are in bondage to these things. It pains us to know that they are in pain, Lord, but they haven't had opportunity to understand until now. We are thanking You, Father, in the name of Jesus, for giving grace and also delivering them of any kind of crutch, any false comfort such as drugs, alcohol, sex, food, buying things or whatever their crutch might be. Lord, take away these idolatrous things. You are the Savior and nothing should comfort us but You.

We have been delivered and, Lord, we are able to comfort others wherewith the comfort that we have been comforted. Lord, I understand these things because I have been through it myself and I understand the comfort that You give, and the deliverance that You give. Lord, I pray that You will make all of our brethren out there who are suffering under this to understand, know and feel this comfort, and to be able to turn and give this comfort to others now that they understand how a person can be delivered. It's so simple, Lord, and it has been there all along but some people will go through their whole life, even as Christians, and not do these things. They will not take these simple steps, Lord.

Lord, I ask You to reveal these people around us in order that we might pray for them. We pray that You will prick their conscience, that You will show them that they're being disobedient by not forgiving others and it's keeping them in bondage. They're being disobedient to the rules of relationships between people by being unforgiving. They're

not obeying Matthew 18:15 where it says to go to a brother first, instead of criticizing him behind his back. They're not obeying 1 Timothy 5:19 where it says to receive not an accusation against an elder without two or three witnesses. They're disobedient and allow their minds to receive accusations against the brethren or against elders. They're being kept in bondage because they're disobedient and yet they feel justified in criticizing others. Lord, I ask you to convict all who are doing this and to grant repentance to all who are doing this. And, Lord, let them feel Your grace and Your mercy, Lord, and let them appreciate You so much because of the salvation which You have given unto them.

Let them see how big your salvation is, Father! You are a mighty God! You love and You deliver Your people and we thank You for this, Lord. We thank You for those who are joining with us today and are exercising their faith toward You. We thank You for giving them a forgiving heart and for turning them away from rejection and fear of rejection, for turning them away from depression and all these things that are tormenting them. Thank You, Father! Thank You in the name of Jesus! Hallelujah! Amen! Father, we thank You so much for being our Savior and blessing us mightily by the power of Your Spirit. We thank You again, in Jesus' name.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Testimonies

Forgiveness Must Come from the Heart

Vicki Rimel - 4/14/2012

(Mat.18:32) Then his lord called him unto him, and saith to him, Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me: (33) shouldst not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee? (34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.

In all things I give Him the glory. God humbled me beyond words. He then healed, delivered and set me free, all in His perfect timing!

The story I am going to share ends in an awesome testimony. I will share as briefly as possible the story of my journey into what I now know was a journey into unforgiveness that started over 60 years ago. The story will then lead us into my journey out of unforgiveness, which began on September 16, 2011 and ended January 27, 2012.

Little did I know as I moved through my life, that the many trials and struggles I would face and live through would bring me to the place where I am today – humbled and continually in awe of God my Heavenly Father. Through it all, God had His hand on me. Oh, praise You; thank You, Father.

Starting in September 2011, God chose to set before me the biggest trial of my life. It was a trial that brought me to a place of total and complete dependence and trust in Him and Him alone, a place and time of getting down to the root cause for this extremely painful and agonizing trial. A five-month trial of testing and refining began. This final trial would allow my Heavenly Father, in the end, to use me in a mighty way to help and serve others. Praise God!

Many things that happened early in life caused me to begin living in a paralyzing fear of man but, at the same time, always trying to please man.

I will share some key points to help you, the reader, understand who Vicki was. Being raised in an alcoholic home brought a great deal of shame and caused me to live in fear. There was fear of what people were saying and thinking about me and my family, and there was fear of never doing or saying the right thing, which caused rejection and fear of rejection to enter my life. These fears caused me to begin living in a paralyzing fear of man but, at the same time, always trying to please man.

Abandonment

Being abandoned by key men in my life. (1) My dad: He did not abandon my life physically, but he abandoned us emotionally. (2) My grandpa: The feeling of abandonment first came into my mind when my grandpa passed away when I was 16, although it was not abandonment, as he did not plan on leaving me. I felt I had been abandoned and my protection in life was gone, so I started building a wall of protection and living a very isolated and lonely life. I allowed very few people into my space. This was a place

I thought was a self-designed protection but I now know it was a self-designed prison.

Being molested by two cousins at a young age and having a man steal my virginity at 16 caused guilt to creep in as well. Rejection and fear of rejection continued to grow as I continued to feel like I could never measure up to anyone's expectations of me. I felt I could never say or do the right things. I felt I never had anything interesting, creative or intelligent to add to any situation.

At the age of 21 I married. Not too far into the marriage I realized my husband was an alcoholic, not just a man who drank socially. Time passed and a pattern began to emerge. The pattern revealed that I was married to a womanizer/adulterer. Pain, hurt, confusion, anger, perfectionism and distrust crept in unannounced. After 28 years, the marriage ended.

All of these issues of abandonment, fear of man, striving to please man, guilt, shame, perfectionism, distrust, anger, etc. festered over the years into a deep root of bitterness, resentment, criticalness and judgmentalism that, in turn, blossomed into a full-blown root of deep-seated unforgiveness, but I did not realize it. Even with all that was going on over the years, I learned to play the world game well, the game of hiding the real and looking perfect on the outside. Eventually, things became so severe it could no longer be hidden as easily. At the age of 26 I went into the hospital for a surgery that was going to make it possible for me to become pregnant. Having a child was the one thing I wanted more than anything in life. I came out of the surgery and was awakened into a nightmare. I was in isolation. I was told I had tuberculosis and a hysterectomy had been performed. It took me six months to recover physically, but

emotionally I was falling into a deep, dark pit of depression that eventually led to hospitalization and later panic and anxiety attacks that consisted of periods of time where I could not leave home. At times I couldn't even go out the front door to the mailbox. As a result, the days and months of this added up to years stolen from me, as I lived in hiding. And I also lived under the influence of a drug called Prozac for 14 years. This masked to a very small degree the symptoms but never addressed the problem. The drug was another form of hiding. (God delivered and set me free from depression and Prozac in 2004. PRAISE GOD!)

In 1985 I received Jesus into my heart at the age of 35. I entered into a life of religion, which was just another form of hiding. I could now hide in religion and the Bible. This didn't work either.

In 1999 I remarried, moved to Alabama and started a new life. My life took a drastic change that took me several years to adjust to, as I was not accustomed to being loved by a man like Jesus loves me. I tried to sabotage the marriage, thinking I had better get this over with before I was abandoned once again. Praise God, I did not succeed.

Fast forward to September 2011. My husband, Paul, and I moved to Tennessee to be with the local UBM body. Almost immediately, some physical things began happening to me. I began having episodes of agonizing headaches that progressed into torturous headaches. Seven episodes over a five-month period. These headaches had me bedridden for days and days on end (a total of 32 days, to be exact).

During these times, I was crying out to God, asking, "Father, what have I done? Where have I displeased You? Please tell me. I will do anything You ask. I want to do nothing that is displeasing in Your sight, Father. Help!" I

was singing everyday, “Create in me a clean heart, O, God; and renew a right spirit within me.” And, I was praying, ***(Psa.139:23) Search me, O God, and know my heart: (24) Try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead in the way everlasting.*** God was doing just that!

I would also ask for prayer and Brother David would come to our home and pray for me with Paul. The local body and Outreach Teleconference Ministry were all praying for me, as well. I would be healed and it would last for a short period of time; then, boom, it hit again. This happened several times. Then the seventh and last episode began. It ended the morning of the ninth day, a Friday morning.

Something very important needs to be added here. The evening before, which was Thursday, January 26th, while sitting in on the Outreach call, Paul and Michael Hare were ministering on deliverance. Paul was reading from Luke 4. When he read verse 18 (little did I know that that was to be the beginning of the end of this time of testing), Paul read these words: “Set to liberty them that are bruised.” The word “bruised” hit me like a ton of bricks. Sitting there in front of my computer, I began thinking about that word. Bruised. I started thinking about how bruised I had been over the course of my 62 years here on Earth. So bruised that there were times I felt unrecognizable. I would at times look at Vicki in the mirror and ask, “Who are you? I don’t know you. I have never met you.” And that led me to thinking about all the millions of people that this story could be about, as well. So many bruised, hurt, broken, wounded people. As I sat here looking up at the wall, the Father opened a vision right before my eyes. The vision was one I will never ever forget. He allowed me to see Jesus on the

cross. As I looked at this, I wept. Our Jesus was hanging on the cross and I could see it all. Every bruise! I could see every bruise for every single person he hanged there for. He was unrecognizable. And I sat in total amazement, weeping. Jesus said something very powerful. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Wow!!!

The next morning at 3:00 a.m., I woke up and woke my husband, Paul. I said, "Honey, something is happening to me. We need to pray." My mouth had gone numb and the numbness continued down my body. My left arm went numb, on down to my legs and both legs went numb. We started praying. A spiritual warfare started as we prayed, praised and sang unto the Lord. How long we did this, I don't know, as we both fell asleep. I woke up once again at 6:00 am and woke Paul again. What was happening to me was really serious now. Not only was there numbness, there was tingling. And I began to feel the numbness and tingling wrap around my heart. My heart also became very heavy and felt like it was in a cement block. I tried to move to the left and could not. I was becoming paralyzed and this continued down my body, as well. My legs became heavy and I could not move them. I was laying there paralyzed. I could at this point still talk normally and we began once again to do all we knew to do and began the spiritual warfare again.

At 7:30 a.m. I asked Paul to call Brother David. At that time, I just wanted to hear Brother David's voice and talk with him. He asked, "Do you want me to come over?" I laid there thinking, "Oh, my. Brother David is so busy all the time; he needs rest." But, I did after a moment or two say, "Yes." He was there almost immediately. During the time we were waiting for Brother David to arrive, I asked Paul

to put my pajamas on, as I needed to be properly dressed. Paul began doing this. At that time, he began to see the severity of what was happening to me. My legs were paralyzed and very heavy, like dead weight. Bless his heart, he did manage to get me properly dressed.

When Brother David arrived, I asked them to pull me up to a sitting position. By that time, I was not able to speak properly and at that moment I realized that all symptoms pointed in the direction of a stroke. (And now, I believe it was also a heart attack, as well). I had for about 20 minutes been thinking about the vision I'd had the night before and I went from that to thinking about Stephen in the Book of Acts. So, I was asking if I could pray what Stephen had said after he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. What Stephen said was totally amazing to me. He said this: "Father, lay not this sin to their charge." Brother David said, "Yes, that is a good prayer to pray."

You see, brothers and sisters, I was beginning to form some things in my mind. I was thinking 90 miles an hour. I was also talking 90 miles an hour as things flooded out of me, even though I spoke like someone who'd had a stroke. Things were just bursting forth. I began to think about the one person who'd caused so much pain in my life – my ex-husband. My heart started breaking for him. A new kind of love was emerging. I was overwhelmed by a love through Christ Jesus for him. I wanted to forgive him and ask the Father to forgive him, for he knew not what he had done and I wanted to ask the Father to NOT lay the sin to his charge. I wanted to release him in my forgiveness. I did just that and prayed this same prayer for ALL the people who had bruised, hurt, wounded, harmed and caused pain over my lifetime. At that time, Paul and Brother David anointed

me with oil and prayed for me. This was to be the beginning of my healing!

Brothers and sisters, I had forgiven over the years, but I started to understand something very significant. I had forgiven from my head and not my heart, which God demands. The forgiveness I had given was so shallow it was almost nonexistent. God, as I was praying, reached down and pulled from my heart a root of unforgiveness and along with it came the roots of bitterness and resentment. I knew God had begun to do something awesome because as I was praying and speaking the name of my ex-husband, there was no anger. Not one ugly thought rose up. That sensation that would rise up at just the thought of him did not happen.

I then asked to be helped out of bed. I wanted to try to walk. Paul on one side, Brother David on the other, I was helped out of the bed. My right leg was usable but the left was not. As I walked, I sort of dragged the left leg. We went into the kitchen and around the island several times. At that time, I was standing and looking down the hallway to the front door and I began to feel something amazing happen. I could feel God healing my body. I felt it all. A warmth came down all around me and wrapped me. It felt like a warm blanket being wrapped around my body. As I stood there, I could feel every single thing happening. As I was standing there feeling what was happening, I started thinking about a scene in the movie *Forrest Gump* where Forrest was running and teenagers were chasing him in a car as his girlfriend was yelling, "Run, Forrest! Run!" As he ran, the braces on his legs began to break off. Right then, I could feel my legs being healed and it felt like braces (bondage) being broken off. I was hearing in my mind,

“Run, Vicki! Run!” I didn’t run but I began to walk without help down the hallway and as I walked, I was still talking and my voice began to change and I began speaking almost perfectly normal. God allowed my speech to be abnormal for a short time, which was okay with me, as it was a reminder of all God had done!

There is no way to describe in words all that happened that morning, but I sit here typing this testimony and I’m still in awe of what God has done for me. I still want to scream it from the rooftops and continually give Him all the glory!!!

On February 8, 2012, I was on the Wednesday night Unleavened Bread Bible Study broadcast with Brother David and gave my testimony. The very next day, I was upstairs and started to head downstairs when the numbness began to hit me and I grabbed hold of the banister to keep from falling head-first to the bottom. I was able to turn and sit in a chair. I asked Father, “What is going on? I have been healed.” He said this to me: “Vicki, it is now time to forgive Vicki.” I called Paul and he came to where I was and I shared what had just happened. So we prayed together! I did just as I was told. I, Vicki, forgave Vicki! At that very moment, all the symptoms disappeared. Thank you, Father!

Today, as I sit typing, it’s seven weeks after the trial ended. I have now begun to land from the spiritual high and am now learning to walk in balance.

Another thing I feel is important to share is this: In 1991, a friend gave me a book. Little did I know how the reading of this book would affect my life. I have read this book once a year for the past 20 years and am now on the 21st reading. The book is *Hinds’ Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard.

A few days after the trial ended, as I was sitting in our living room, God brought to my attention how my life paralleled the story in this book. The story is about a little crippled woman with twisted legs and twisted mouth, named Much Afraid, and her journey to the high places with the Shepherd (Jesus) as her guide. And two companions selected by the Shepherd to accompany her on her journey were named Sorrow and Suffering. I now realize I too had these two companions for much of my life.

When I was in the midst of the end of this trial, my legs were paralyzed and twisted a bit when I stood up and my mouth was twisted and my speech was impaired. During this entire trial, my Shepherd, Jesus, was by my side.

As I have briefly shared, some of the events in my life caused me to be Much Afraid. Traveling through the many trials of life like Much Afraid is what it took to arrive on the high places to receive hinds' feet. I praise God that He allowed me to read this book so many times and in the end showed me how He carried me through so many desolate, dry and fearful places and, at times, had me in places of happiness and peace, in the end bringing me to a place of total dependence and trust in Him. At the end, Much Afraid and her companions received new names, as I feel I did, as well. Much Afraid became Grace and Glory. Sorrow and Suffering became Peace and Joy. Praise God!

My days have been filled with peace and joy. I am blessed to live in His grace and give glory to Him everyday. Praise God!

Now, at this point in my testimony, I will share briefly that there were times during the last 2½ months that symptoms tried to come back on me but each time I took authority over them and they would leave. It was a trial of

my faith. And today I can say that I have had no symptoms for several weeks.

Today, 2½ months after the end of the matter, I am continuing to walk in freedom. I continue to give God the glory for all He's done. I continue to depend on and trust Him in all matters. I continue to grow by leaps and bounds. I continue to seek Him for direction and guidance. I continue to receive healing and deliverance, which I am discovering is part of the daily walk with Jesus. I feel like a five-year-old all the time who can't seem to have enough fun. Such freedom! I was talking to my friend, Debbie, in Alabama recently, telling her about feeling like a five-year-old all the time. She reminded me of a dream she'd had about me many years ago. She dreamed I was coming out of the house next to hers and I had a little five- to six-year-old girl with me. I was holding her hand and being extremely protective, doing everything I could to keep her in my sight and close to me. I thought, *wow, I do remember that dream*. So, looks like that little girl, who is my fruit, has finally been set at liberty! Freedom! Praise God!

As I close, I pray for all who read the words of my testimony. I pray and ask the Father to minister to your heart. I ask that the searching of hearts will bring all who struggle in the area of unforgiveness to a place of total surrender to God and will allow Him to deliver you and set you free from this bondage. I pray all the bruises of your lives will be healed and as you are being healed, you will move into a new and totally free walk with our Jesus. I pray God will, through the trials, testing and refining bring you to complete surrender to the Potter's hand.

Father, I thank you for breaking and remaking each one of us into Your image, into vessels of honor, fit for Your use,

Father. I thank you, Father, for healing and deliverance that brings us all into a place of receiving all Your benefits that are available for us. In Jesus' name, amen. I would like to include two very important Scriptures that I have held onto for many years:

(Ecc.7:8) Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

(Psa.138:8) The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me ... God bless you all. In His care and service.

Freedom from Unforgiveness

Taleeba Thomas - 5/14/2010

Since a lot of the topics for the past few weeks have mainly been focused on forgiveness, I wanted to share this testimony. I have felt a very strong urge from the Lord to do so.

I have been battling with a spirit of unforgiveness ever since I can remember. It wasn't until last week that I was delivered of it by the grace of God. This spirit has been a gateway for other demonic spirits of division and depression to quietly slip into my marriage. A couple of months ago, the Lord had spoken to me and had given me specific instructions concerning prayer about my marriage. I was told to not bring any issues to my husband that I had concerning him and my feelings but to only go to the Lord in prayer. The point of it was to not do things by my own works but to allow God to take over. For a few weeks I was doing it and things were looking better. I saw a lot of my prayers being answered and I was feeling very confident

in my prayers. But, eventually, I became lazy and stopped praying as much and I opened a door for numerous attacks from the devil for disobeying what the Lord told me to do.

I started trying to fix the problems myself and becoming angry with the results. I was angry at my husband for not “understanding” or “listening” to me. I was also angry with the Lord for not answering me according to my own selfish desires. I was very selfish when it came to my husband’s feelings, while accusing him of doing the same thing to me. Very quickly I went into a downward spiral of unforgiveness and anger. A couple of weeks ago, my husband and I got into a very heated discussion about something that he did, which he apologized for, but because I was being unforgiving it turned very quickly into a very heated argument. I had been very one-sided and selfish while he was speaking. He ended up going to pray with another brother and I ended up thinking about what had just taken place. In the middle of the argument, he asked me if I prayed for him when I was upset. The impact of those words felt like a car smacking into me. Of course I wasn’t praying for him; I was trying to make him understand what I felt by my own works. I emailed a UBM elder and his wife a brief summary of what happened that night and confessed to them that I was walking in unforgiveness and then I repented.

I prayed for myself to change first and then I prayed for my husband. The elder and his wife wanted to talk to us both about the issues that we were having, so they did and still I was fighting some things in my heart. My flesh did not want to submit to what the Lord wanted me to do and it also didn’t want me to believe that I could be delivered. We all prayed and I meditated on a Scripture that was mentioned when we all talked: **(Mat.6:15) But if ye forgive**

not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

I also listened to all of *The Curse of Unforgiveness* teachings. After meditating on those Scriptures and listening to those teachings, I felt terrible. I felt bad that I had hurt my husband and I felt even worse that I had disobeyed the Lord. I began to really think, how in the world could I ask the Lord for forgiveness when I didn't even want or have a desire to forgive my husband? I, too, was unforgiving because it was easy to justify myself and be angry. I thought the Lord could do the same thing to me: He didn't have to forgive me and He didn't have to die for me.

I asked the Lord for help and I repented with my whole heart. A couple days later, my husband and I were supposed to spend some time together but he had made other plans. I was upset and at first I didn't handle it very well. I tried to distract myself with cleaning, but that didn't work. So I tried to call the elder's wife so we could pray but there was no answer. I also tried to call another sister to pray with but she didn't answer either. I felt the Lord saying to me, "Pray to Me first." So I did and about five seconds after I had finished praying and repenting, the elder's wife called and we prayed together, and soon after I finished praying with her, the other sister called and we prayed. After I prayed with the two of them, I sat down on the floor and I prayed by myself. I wanted to be delivered. I prayed for 30 minutes and when I was about to get up, I felt the weight of that spirit still on me.

I said to it, "No! I will not allow you to reign over my body, my thoughts and my marriage anymore." I said to my flesh, "I am going to pray until you die." So I prayed for three straight hours – non-stop – until I forgave my

husband and that spirit was completely removed from me. I felt the Lord had reached into me and pulled it out and when I stood up, I felt like a new person and the weight of that spirit is gone.

After I had finished praying, my husband came home and surprised me with a dinner date. If I had allowed that demon to overtake me, that definitely wouldn't have happened. Ever since being delivered, I find that I don't really have as many complaints as I thought I did about my husband. My prayers are aimed at the Lord changing me first and then changing my husband. I am battling my flesh constantly but it is a load lighter without the spirit of unforgiveness on me.

Praise the Lord for His mercy and grace. God bless you all.

Freedom of Forgiveness

Anonymous - 3/16/2008

An awesome miracle happened to me – the answer to a desire I have had in my heart for 25 years.

I have been praying for my parents' salvation and for healing from the rejection from my childhood for a long, long time. It has been a defining issue in my life. But then, like the woman who had been suffering with a bleeding disease 18 years, Jesus touched me and healed me ... and my dad.

I was always so afraid he would die without the Lord and without a chance to repent for certain things in my childhood that caused me a lot of pain: anger, bitterness and rejection. I would always imagine him apologizing for

everything and telling me he loved me.

My whole life I wanted so badly to earn his attention and approval. Before the Lord drew me to Himself and I was born from above in 1999, I was a “super achiever.” I gravitated toward things that would gain attention – cheer-leading, musical performances, popularity, partying. Then I became very ambitious. I attended an Ivy League college and had some interesting jobs, but inside I was so lonely. I never felt accepted. In truth, I was frequently rejected because I was different from people, but I really just wanted love.

Well, after the Lord saved me by His grace, I started learning what the Bible says about faith about one year ago. I found some things in the Bible really shocked me. I saw verses like, **(Mar.11:25) Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.** I also saw that the only condition for Jesus to heal someone was for them to have faith.

In the past I had always prayed for things, not knowing if God’s will was to answer, “Yes.” But then, after looking in the Bible, I saw that certain things were clearly God’s will because Jesus had died to give us these things.

The Bible also says in James 1 to ask without doubting because the double-minded will not receive from God.

If you look at the ministry of Jesus, you will see He healed and delivered everyone who came to Him in faith, so we have many, many amazing promises God gives to us if we believe them.

Well, I asked God to save my dad and started confessing to other people about the good work God was going to do in my dad. I would say, “God is going to give him a new heart.

I'm going to see it with my own eyes, too!"

Meanwhile, I was still seeing a lot of rejection and would really wrestle with these feelings. Finally, my husband had enough. He told me it was time to cut off the relationship with my parents. He is a good man and very gentle. He was just sick of seeing me in pain and wanted to help me. Through him, the Lord put me on a cross to submit to the Word, which says for me to obey my husband. Right away, sin and idolatry was revealed in my heart – an ungodly bondage to my mom's opinion, and anger and bitterness toward them.

I wrote three drafts of a letter to them that was supposed to explain why I would be temporarily cutting ties with them. You see, I just wanted to be free from the torment I felt around them because of how I was treated.

Praise God, the Lord did not allow me to send those letters because my husband kept telling me to wait a while. Every time I read through them, I would notice accusation. I didn't want to accuse them because they are unbelievers and the Lord tells us to not judge those who are without [grace]. I know if you judge, you will be judged and I didn't want that. I want the measure I give (of grace) to be given back unto me.

The presence of anger showed me my heart was not pure toward my parents. I prayed for Him to cleanse me of all defilement of flesh and spirit. Jesus loved His enemies and those who persecuted Him. The discomfort I felt proved that I was not loving them, but defending myself and justifying my actions.

Well, the Lord gave me strength to tell my parents what was on my heart. I should have told them years ago, instead of letting the sun go down on my anger for so many years.

I was sobbing and after a time the Holy Spirit got ahold of my tongue and started giving me words of life, blessing and encouragement to my dad, after recounting every sin he had done against me. He became very tender-hearted and for the first time ever just listened and received. He didn't attack me or walk away; he just listened.

Then, with a love and humility I have never seen before, he told me he was sorry for causing me so much pain. He said he was sorry I never felt loved and that he did love me. I felt a rush of love and tenderness for my dad. We hugged and I forgave my dad from the heart. I told him, "Dad, I love you so much. I forgive you. It's over." We were both crying.

The unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, resentment, judgment and self-righteousness fell off me. I felt so clean inside. Oh, praise God! This was the desire of my heart. I am so humbled by His mercy toward us.

I was also so shocked to realize that I had so much sin in me toward my dad. I had a log in my eye and I could not see clearly. I had been judgmental, angry, slandering and gossiping about him for many, many years. Even though I had forgiven him over and over in my mouth, I had never really forgiven him in my heart. When the Lord delivered me of unforgiveness, I was like, "Wow, so that's unforgiveness." It had been in me for so long it was like a part of my character. Praise God. He gives us a new nature by faith – the life of Jesus as we put to death our old man (life).

I thank God for His amazing mercy in revealing and then freeing me from these sins that cause so much torment.

I should mention that my unforgiveness led to much torment. I had had an eating disorder at one point and other bondages. I feel so light now. I also confessed to my dad my

years of sin toward him in my heart and thanked him for the many things he did that showed me love. (God brought these to mind.)

Also, I called my parents later that night. They were both praising God! Those were my mom's words. She said, "We are both thanking God for this miracle He did for us." I have feared them being unsaved for so long. Last night God gave me another gift. He showed me that my parents do know Him; they are weak but certainly growing in Him. I was the born-again daughter foolishly pushing religion down their throat while walking in unforgiveness and judgment. I just thank God for dealing with me more mercifully than I have been dealing with others.

The Bible says if we do not forgive, the Lord will turn us over to the tormentors. I did suffer torment. As I was struggling with writing that letter to them, the Lord handed me over to a severe chastisement. I had nausea, migraines and other ailments that came on suddenly last week and lasted until a friend of mine prayed for me and rebuked that in Jesus' name. Now I see so much came on me as the result of unforgiveness in my past, too. I attributed those things in me to my faulty childhood. Now I see it was unforgiveness and anger in me – my own sins – that brought judgment. Sin leads to death.

Can you imagine, for so many years rejection, pain and anger were draining life out of me? But then the Lord God of hosts heard me and heal me, and gave glory to Himself in my whole family. I was so self-righteous and judging, so unlike Jesus, Who ate with sinners. I could point out every sin in them, who did not have grace to repent and walk in holiness (yet), as if salvation was man's work. For it is by grace you are saved through faith; this is a gift of God so no

man can boast.

I have seen with my own eyes the salvation of the Lord in my family. This is only the beginning. He is going to grow my parents. We, my husband included, will soon be fellowshiping together in the Word. God will be glorified in us, by His grace. I just thank Him for doing all of the work. His works were completed from before the foundation of the world.

Thank You, Father! You are so faithful. He is so awesome and powerful beyond words. I am so humbled and grateful.

May this testimony encourage you to turn to Him to heal you of the pain of your past, teach you love, grace and forgiveness, and give you the desires of your heart.

In Hell for Unforgiveness

Pastor Daniel Ekechukwu

This is the true story of Pastor Daniel Ekechukwu in Nigeria, who was raised from the dead after three days in front of a multitude of witnesses. Pastor Daniel died after a traffic accident. His body was in a mortuary for three days and he came back to life when his wife convinced others that his time was not yet because of previous promises God had given her. He still has his death certificate, written by a hospital doctor. In the movie, he recounts his experiences, with amazing computer-generated images of both Heaven and Hell.

The angelic voices that are heard in Heaven are actual angelic voices recorded at a small church in South Africa. The actual footage of the coming back to life of Pastor Dan-

iel is shown in the movie. Pastor Daniel is personally interviewed in the movie.

Below is Robin Schenck's transcription (underlining added for emphasis) of the short clip of the video "The Lazarus Phenomenon," by Johan Sturm of Eternal Productions.

This begins with Daniel dying on the ground.

DANIEL: Suddenly, I had some feelings and for me to look up. I saw two angels.

NARRATOR: When Daniel saw the two angels, he wanted to let his wife know, but the angel indicated that he should keep silent. Immediately, Daniel's power of speech was taken from him. Nneka began to cry, fearing that Daniel would die. The angels took Daniel by his

shoulders and lifted him out of the ambulance. Suddenly, Daniel found himself in another place with one of the angels.

ANGEL: Daniel, I have a lot to show you.

NARRATOR: As he looked out, Daniel saw a place where a multitude of people gathered and their appearance was like that of the angels. Their color was pure white and their bodies seemed to glow with radiance. Because of their similar appearance, Daniel thought he was seeing a gathering of the angels.

ANGEL: This is not the gathering of the angels, Daniel; this is the gathering of the saints. NARRATOR: The differences between the saints and the angels are subtle. Both their color is a pure, brilliant white from their hair down to their feet, but the difference is that the angels have wings, while the saints do not. (Editor's note: The cherubim and seraphim have wings.) The saints were worshipping God. They worshipped God with one voice and raised

their hands as they were singing. Daniel heard the sound of many instruments and the sounds were like nothing he had encountered before. He longed to join these people and moved over toward them, but the angels stopped him.

ANGEL: Daniel, don't go. I have a lot to show you. Take this file and record everything you

see.

NARRATOR: The multitude that Daniel saw were all looking at a bright light that shone like the sun. It was a source of all the light there

DANIEL: A very thick, heavy light coming upon them there. Now, they were all looking at that light as if they are seeing something there, but to me, I cannot look at that light. I cannot look at that light because it's so dangerous for my eyes. So I tried to budge to look through, but they were looking through, but to me I cannot look through.

ANGEL: Let's visit the mansions Jesus prepared for His people.

NARRATOR: Immediately, Daniel was in a new place with radiant mansions as far as the eye could see. It was incomparable to anything he knew on Earth. Though the appearance resembled buildings, the structure was unusual, not made of any earthly materials. They seem to be alive, moving.

ANGEL: Daniel, Jesus has finished His work. The mansions are ready, but the saints are not ready.

NARRATOR: There was a sound of beautiful singing and worship and it seemed to come from all around. Daniel wondered where the singing was coming from because he could see no people there.

ANGEL: Daniel, the worship song you're hearing is being sung by the flowers.

NARRATOR: As he looked, Daniel saw the flowers swinging in response to the music. It actually seemed as if they were clapping their hands, shouting and praising God.

ANGEL: They are waiting for the saints. We are now going to visit Hell. Can you see the gates of Hell?

NARRATOR: The angel raised his hand and as he brought it down the gates ripped open with a great noise. Daniel could hear the crying and wailing of many people, but he could not see any of them. And then a light shone from the angel's body into the darkness so that Daniel could see more clearly. There were many people there, but unlike the souls in Heaven, the appearance of these people was as it had been on Earth. They were from every race, culture and nationality. Every person seemed trapped in their own personal torment, a torment which would go on for eternity and they could not communicate with others. The sounds of crying and wailing were almost deafening. Suddenly, they all seemed to become aware of Daniel and started crying to him for help. And they called to Daniel only, as if they could not see the angel.

PASTOR IN HELL: Please ... help! I'm a pastor. I stole money from the church and I lied. Help me ... please! I'm ready to repent ... help!

NARRATOR: Immediately after the pastor made the statement, the force that was tormenting him seemed to increase. The people had flesh, but no blood, and they almost seemed to be on fire, although no flames could be seen. There was a group of people who were eating their own flesh. They would vomit what they ate and their flesh grew back. This carried on in an endless cycle of torment.

ANGEL: Those people you see eating themselves, they practiced witchcraft while they were on Earth. They spe-

cialized in eating human flesh and now they'll eat themselves forever. They are reaping what they sowed.

DANIEL: That place is not good for any human being created by God to go and God did not make that place for human beings; He made that place for the devil and his angels. But stubborn human beings who will disobey God, like the devil, will also go there. God has no mind to put any human being in Hell. It's a dangerous and deadly place He meant for the devil and his people.

NARRATOR: What was to follow was an earth-shattering statement by the angel. Daniel couldn't have imagined in his wildest dreams that he would hear the judgment.

ANGEL: Daniel, if the book of your life was to be closed today, this would be your portion. DANIEL: No! I'm a pastor! I'm a child of God; I'm born again. I preach all over this country I'm in, the country which I'm in. This country. No. No. This can't be.

ANGEL: Enough. Daniel, on your way to the first hospital you were asking God to forgive you, but you would not forgive your wife and your sins have not been forgiven. It is a matter of reaping what you sow. You cannot sow unforgiveness to your wife and reap forgiveness from God.

Editor's note: Those who die with unforgiveness go to Hell. ***(Mat.6:14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*** Those who live with unforgiveness are delivered to tormenting spirits and go to Hell with tormenting spirits, if they do not repent. ***(Mat.18:32) Then his lord called him unto him, and saith to him, Thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou be-***

soughtest me: (33) shouldst not thou also have had mercy on thy fellow-servant, even as I had mercy on thee? (34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.

DANIEL: Oh. I knew he made that statement. My spirit convinced me that what the angel told me or the judgment on me is true. So he said to me that I didn't forgive my wife, that I'm not forgiven, so while I was crying, crying, crying, shouting and shouting, I was not crying that I will only say, see how I destroy my soul, look at how I destroy my soul. While I was shouting and crying, I was afraid. Tears were all over me. I was panicking because that place is not good for anyone and the way everything was looking, if God wanted to put me inside Hell, nothing would prevent Him because while we were discussing, some group of people, thousands of people, were being sent into Hell.

NARRATOR: People started praying for him, praying for resurrection.

DANIEL: Then the angel said to me that he's sending me back to the world to go and warn this nation because this is going to be the last warning to this generation.

WIFE, NNEKA: As prayers were going on, then his heart began to pant, life began to come in his heart. We continued praying and praying, we are praying. As all these things were going on, he began to breathe gradually, but his body was still stiff.

DANIEL: I saw myself being held by a lot of people. I was naked and put on my dress. I saw a crowd of people, more than 20,000 people. I looked to my left, right, everywhere.

People were shouting, crying everywhere. Some were praising God, some were crying. I was looking around. I couldn't understand what was happening because to me I was falling down and I fell into fear, and to me, when I opened my eyes, I saw all hands were grabbing me. They said to me that I jumped up. I saw this big cathedral, a very big cathedral. I looked by my right, my left, my front and my back. Everywhere was full of people. Some people were shouting, some were saying "coffin"; some said "mortuary"; some said "three days." I couldn't understand because my experience was not more than 15 minutes, so I don't know what they call about three days. To me there was no night, there was no day; it was only that moment I was into. By now I asked my wife, "What is happening?" She said I should keep quiet until we get to the house. They brought me back to my house, this place, with my wife.

Note from Barbara Arroyo: I first heard about this many years ago. My former pastor, David Servant, went to Nigeria and met him. Yes, that was an incredible story! I guess this happened back in 2002. Pastor Servant went to Nigeria and investigated this and even actually interviewed the doctor and mortician and also Daniel himself! This is an incredible story! There is more information on Pastor Servant's website.

The Unforgiving Can Run Out of Time

Rick Sergent - 5/18/2012

I received a call from Mary in Indiana and she told me that BW had passed away in her sleep. They found her in bed, I believe on Thursday morning, 5/17/12. I said, "Well, she is in Heaven," and Mary said, "Yes, she is." I knew BW,

but not as well as Mary did. I remember about three years ago I had invited Mary and her friend BW over to hear a noted speaker in the area of deliverance. I put them up in a hotel. BW loved the Lord; she would buy Bibles, Christian literature, such as CDs, DVDs and books. She would give them away to people who could not afford the ministry items. One thing she really loved was seeing the power of the Lord in the area of deliverance. She always wanted to be in the assembly of the saints.

Despite all these wonderful things, her life took a turn gradually for the worse. She was working for this employer, a well-known, large company. The company did her wrong and cheated her out of her retirement because of an injury that she said had occurred while employed there. The company, in essence, disagreed with her. She became angry and eventually very bitter. She would not let it go and it ate her up. She started to think the company was spying on her and had hidden cameras looking at her. She was consumed with it. It went to arbitration. In the natural, she probably would have won, but she kept bringing up the devil and the company thought she was nuts. Well, she lost the case. People would pray for her but she would not forgive. She would say, "I have forgiven them," but in reality she was just giving lip service. Mary said this had gone on for about 10 years, her holding unforgiveness and bitterness. She would tell people that she had forgiven the company, but later poison would just spew out of her mouth.

BW told me that her sister stole her husband away from her. Some say she had unforgiveness toward her sister. Well, at the beginning, Mary had told me of BW's death and it was said by her friends that she is now on the streets glory. The Lord immediately gave me a very clear vision:

I saw BW. She had a robe on, but it was not white; it was not even an off- white. It was a desert tan. I started to get concerned. She was kneeling down, with her head down. I then looked where she was. The best way to describe it is it looked desolate! There were no hills; it was just flat. It looked semi-arid, with little or no plant vegetation. I guess it looked liked a desert.

She had her hands clasped on each side of her face. This was quite troubling to look at, to say the least. I then looked up and saw from a distance two objects in the sky, flying relatively low to the ground. These flying objects were coming toward her direction. When it got closer, it was horrifying to look at. These two objects were two demonic creatures. They looked liked gargoyles with bat-like wings. As each one touched her to pick her up, she raised her head. The horror on her face would be something I would like to forget. Then they took her and flew away, toward the direction from which they came. I watched until I could not see them anymore. Then the vision ended.

Thinking of what I just saw, great sadness came over me and my eyes watered. I opened the Bible once and my eyes fell on ***(Psa.6:2) Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am withered away: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are troubled. (3) My soul also is sore troubled: And thou, O Lord, how long? (4) Return, O Lord, deliver my soul: Save me for thy lovingkindness' sake.***

Even if the saints do not repent of unforgiveness, they too could have sickness, disease and death of their mind, soul and spirit and will ultimately end up in Hell. I have even asked God to search my heart, to see if there is any unclean thing. The devil puts thoughts in a person's mind

and says things like, “Look at all the wonderful things you have done for the Lord. You have had your own Bible studies, even led people to Jesus! You’re okay. Surely the Lord would overlook this!” The victim buys the lie, not knowing it’s the devil feeding it to them directly!

Do not be deceived, my brothers and sisters – whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. If you sow unforgiveness, you will ultimately reap the Heavenly Father not forgiving of your sins. Mark 11:25-26 is very clear; Jesus said: ***(Mar.11:25) And whensoever ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any one; that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (26) But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses.***

Dream of Hell

March 2004

This dream was very real. I dreamed that the Lord took my spirit out of my body to visit Hell, not for torment, but for observation only. All of my senses were very much alive. I went to the place of Hell called Outer Darkness. I did not see any flames or demons. I could feel evil. I could feel the gritty sand-like substance under my feet. Immediately, I saw four young men. I knew in my spirit their ages were 17-24. They all got there at the same time. I was about 15 feet from them. They could not see me. This part I cannot explain: there was a low-level light and I could see their silhouettes. They had chains on them.

Great sorrow came to my spirit. One of them started to talk. He kept saying over and over again, “I thought I

had more time. I thought I had more time.” I recognized that voice! I knew who he was. His name is B.A. I knew his mother. He was raised in church most of his life.

I could feel what these young men were feeling. I felt remorse and hopelessness. The strongest among the two was remorse. It was 1000 times stronger than at anytime I felt remorse when I was on the earth! It was so real! There was no comparison! It was horrible. Even if there were no flames, no demons in Hell, but I know there are, that would be torment enough! People with no hope, no second chances, lost forever, are eternally separated from God!

Some people have asked me why I did not see the flames or demons. I explained it this way: If you came to someone’s house and they invited you in, you may only see their living room. If you only see their living room, it does not mean the house does not have a bedroom. You know there is a bedroom! You do not have to see the bedroom to know there is a bedroom in the house.

I believe there are different levels or rooms of Hell, as there are different levels of Heaven. We know there is a lake of fire. There are no souls in the lake of fire until after the Great White Throne Judgment. The lake of fire does not cover all of Hell. Death and Hell is a temporary abode until these too are thrown into the lake of fire, after the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

About the young man, B.A. The Lord sometimes gives us visions about the future to warn people, like he did the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, when John saw the future, to write the book of Revelation. When I saw this, I had not talked to B.A.’s mom for close to a year. I asked her how her son was doing and if he was going to church anywhere. She said that she’s been asking him to go to church

and he has been telling her he doesn't have time. Remember, in Hell he said, "I thought I had more time! I thought I had more time!" In the natural, he was busy with buying and building a house, and working. I knew his mom knew spiritual things, so I told her what I saw. She believed and said she would tell her son. I have not heard back.

I believe God is separating the sheep from the goats. He is marking His own people. ***(Eze. 9:4) And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry over all the abominations that are done in the midst thereof.*** The devil marks his children spiritually and, eventually, physically.

Update: I never heard back from that mom and her son. A very interesting thing happened about two weeks ago. I was telling this spirit-filled woman about the vision of Hell. The next day, she said her first name is the same name as the mom whose son I saw in Hell. She also said she has a son just like the one I saw in Hell and with the same first name! Prophecy is multifaceted; it can apply to more than one situation.

Deliverance from Unforgiveness

Andrea Litt - 6/11/2011

I had the pleasure of attending a Saturday service in Tennessee recently. While I was there, a testimony was given about unforgiveness. Later on in the meeting, the Lord brought to my remembrance my testimony of being delivered from unforgiveness and pressed upon me to share it.

I had unforgiveness in my heart toward someone. The

Lord said it was time to be delivered and started working with me; this ended up taking about one year.

It was rough at first. The enemy didn't want to leave and tried several times to keep me from forgiving. I put up a wall around me when this person was around; it was my own natural way to keep from being hurt anymore. Some encounters were better than others but the more I prayed the better they got. Oftentimes my memory would be flooded with all the hurtful things that I had buried inside, but I would cry out to the Lord and ask Him to forgive me for holding onto them and to please take them. He always did.

There were times that I would be mad or aggravated with this person and would start ranting about what they had done. These rantings, at least the ones I said out loud, were always to my mom. The rantings I said in my mind were to the Lord. He would always settle me down and take that memory so that it would be gone. My mom would very gently and lovingly look at me and tell me to let it go and remind me that I had to forgive this person. Most of the time it worked, but a few times I would fire back at her out of frustration and tell her, "I know. I'm working on it, but it doesn't go away over night." My mom prayed for me a lot, probably more than I realize.

During this time, the Lord had me listen to *The Curse of Unforgiveness* series. I downloaded it to my iPod and would go for a walk and listen to it. I listened to it several times. The more I prayed and overcame, the more layers the Lord peeled off.

During the winter months, I like to stand or sit in front of the fire to pray. It's always quiet and peaceful. On one particular night, the Lord put this person in my mind, so I started to pray. As I was praying, I asked the Lord to for-

give me for having unforgiveness, anger, hurt and bitterness in my heart and to please take it. As soon as I said those words, I felt it all come out of my chest; it was gone. I can't explain the feeling, but it was great! I started praising the Lord with tears streaming down my face. I was free.

The next night, I was in my same spot, praying. The Lord brought this person to my mind again, only this time I had to ask for love. I told the Lord, "I don't love this person. Would You please forgive me and give me love for them?" As soon as I said those words, I felt the love of God go right in through my chest. This feeling is indescribable -- 100 times better than the night before. I stood with tears streaming down my face, praising the Lord for His grace to get me through to the end.

I love this person now and pray for them. I can be around them and it doesn't bother me; there are no more buried memories. The Lord tilled up all of the roots so they could be plucked up and He could plant His seed. Whenever I am delivered of something, I ask the Lord to fill that spot with something from Him.

I thank You, Heavenly Father, for Your grace to get me through to the end.

Note from David: Unforgiveness is the root of many things that separate us from God and others. Anger, bitterness, wrath, murder, faction, slander, railing, judging, criticism, etc. All of these and more have the same fruit – the unforgiveness of God toward us: ***(Mat.6:15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And tormenting spirits in our lives: (Mat.18:34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due. (35) So shall also***

my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts.

Delivered from the Spirit of Rejection

Lorena Wagner - 5/24/2010

About a year ago, the Lord showed me that I had a spirit of rejection and I received it through the bloodline of my dad. My grandparents tried to abort him and his siblings constantly reminded him he was not wanted.

The spirit of rejection took all my life experiences and twisted them in my head. It made me take everything personally and made me perceive its version of the truth instead of reality.

Kids are cruel in school and everybody is picked on in some way. They picked on me because I'm a redhead, so I saw my hair as a physical disfigurement. I thought if I was pretty, people would like me despite the color of my hair.

When I would get beaten up by the boys after school, I thought I was the only one getting picked on. I didn't have any black eyes but there was a lot of hair-pulling, kicking, biting, scratching and punching. I thought it was all because of the color of my hair. And I thought because I was different, I would never be accepted; and I hated myself and my hair.

During this time, I developed nervous facial tics. My mom told me to stop but I told her no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't. I told her my face would feel extremely funny and the only relief was to allow the tic. She told me to rub my face every time I felt that and I did. The Most High God had mercy on me and broke the nervous tics that very

instant and I was immediately delivered.

A couple years later during summer, I woke up and the left side of my face was paralyzed and felt heavy. When I would blink, my left eye wouldn't close. When I smiled, only half my face would smile. My dad thought I was just making funny faces and told me if I didn't stop my face would stick. But very quickly he realized this was a serious medical condition.

The doctors discovered I had Bell's Palsy and informed us there was no cure and I would have to live with this the rest of my life. Later, I asked my parents if that was really true: Would I have to live with this the rest of my life? I felt ugly enough having red hair, without adding a paralyzed face to the equation. And they said, "We serve a God Who heals. He is a healing God." Being a child, I thought my parents were smarter than the doctors, so I put my faith in what they told me and ignored what the doctors said.

The Lord completely healed my face within seven days. The doctors were stunned. The healing was so complete; there is not even the slightest trace even to this very day, despite the doctors' report.

When my parents became missionaries to Swaziland, I was so ecstatic and looked forward to a fresh start. Maybe there they would accept my red hair, but little did I know that the country we were going to believed people with red hair were witch doctors.

Now, not only did the color of my hair stand out but the color of my skin, too. I was really different. I felt I would never fit in. I didn't know the language and couldn't understand their accent, even when they spoke in English. The Swazi kids were actually loving and gentle, unlike the American kids, and they were intrigued by me. They want-

ed to touch my hair and my skin and smell me, but I felt intimidated.

I thought I was the dumbest one in my class. The standard of schooling was much higher than in the States and the kids laughed at me because I didn't know the answers when the teacher called on me. Inevitably, there was always somebody who had pity on me and whispered the answer to me. The spirit of rejection twisted my thoughts and once again I felt rejected. I was a loner. I thought there was something wrong with me because I was dumb. I wanted to be anybody else but me.

After my sister read this, she told me those Swazi kids loved me and loved playing marbles with me during recess. The love they gave me, the spirit of rejection stole from me.

Because there was no high school in the country we lived in, I was forced to go to boarding school. I went to an all-white, all-girls high school in South Africa. Suddenly, my hair became my greatest asset. I became interested in fashion and beauty and surrounded myself with prim and proper British tea-drinking girls who were gossips and snobs. I was the queen of beauty secrets and shared them with everybody. Even during my short-lived popularity, inside, I still felt dumb and ugly. I felt I was the object of gossip and that the girls were looking down their noses at me.

After three years of boarding school, my family moved to Johannesburg, South Africa and I was finally able to live at home with my parents and go to a public school. No longer was I surrounded by prim and proper British girls but fighting Jezebels.

My sister and I rode the school bus. The Jezebels would not allow us to sit, even though there was a vacant seat. They said they were reserved. I was determined to sit be-

cause I didn't want to have to stand through high school. The girls converged on my sister and me. They pulled our hair, tore our dresses, kicked, scratched, bit, punched and burned us with their cigarettes. I stood up for myself and protected my sister. At that point in my life, I didn't know to turn the other cheek. I prayed and asked God to give me strength and after a while, they gave up.

After I graduated from high school, I returned to the States to go to college. Before school started, I lived a few months with relatives. And during those months, the spirit of rejection made me feel more alone than ever. Even though I had returned to the land of my birth, I realized I had become a foreigner. I was stranger than ever. My clothes were the latest in fashion in Europe, but they just didn't fly in Wyoming. There was nothing indecent about them, but a pastor's wife wrote a letter to my parents stating I looked like a streetwalker and carbon-copied it to the church headquarters. Apparently, nothing but jeans, cowboy boots, or tennis shoes were accepted. My clothes were too colorful and different.

The day finally came when I was able to go to college and move into the dorm. God blessed me with a fabulous roommate and we became immediate friends. She helped me adjust to the American way of life and I became more confident. I finally started having fun but didn't study enough and got kicked out of two church colleges with which my parents were affiliated. I was labeled a rogue missionary kid who dressed like a streetwalker. And in my shame, I went back home to South Africa.

All my life I was judged by my hair and now I began to judge other people by their hair. One night I dreamed I was walking on a busy sidewalk in a big city. The sidewalk

was crowded with people walking to and fro. There was a long, green snake gliding at shoulder level. When our eyes met, he immediately came at me and coiled himself tightly around my ponytail. I grabbed him with my right hand and tried to pull him out of my hair, but he was coiled so tightly. He wouldn't budge. I woke up. At this time, I didn't know anything about the importance of dreams but it was so vivid. I never forgot it.

Eventually, my head started to itch and burn, and I thought to myself, whatever you do, never itch in public. I didn't want to act like the baboons in Africa, always scratching. A couple of years went by and ridges started to form on my scalp but I didn't think anything about it and ignored it.

Later, I got married and moved into my husband's house, and within a week, I realized I made a huge mistake. He became physically abusive and would often kick me out. In an effort to not worry my parents and hide my shame, I spent the nights at a hotel and kept going back.

As time went by, the abuse became more and more frequent. I felt like I was having a nightmare and couldn't wake up. It became increasingly difficult to hide the abuse from my family and from work. I found out he was addicted to pornography and that is why he would kick me out. I thought I married a Christian!

One early Saturday morning, he came at me with full force and I ran from him. He was so much bigger and stronger than me and I couldn't get away. "God, get me out of here. Help me," I cried. I grabbed the phone and dialed 9-1-1, but he slammed the receiver down. A few minutes later, a police car pulled up.

Later that day, I looked at myself in the mirror and I was shocked. I didn't recognize myself. Somebody else was

staring at me in the mirror. We had only been married four months and four days. This was the ultimate rejection and betrayal.

For the next 2½, we were separated but trying to work things out. Even during that time, he was physically abusive. My family was afraid he was going to kill me. When they knew I was with him, they would often call; and if I did not answer, they would call the police. It ended in divorce. I went to my mom's beauty shop for a haircut. She told me I needed to see the dermatologist because the ridges at the crown of my head had turned a reddish purple. The dermatologist did a biopsy and discovered I had a rare condition called Pseudopelade of Broque. She gave me little green pills to take.

The first morning I took one of those little green pills, within 20 minutes, I was doubled over in pain. No matter how hard I tried to take those pills, I was never able to keep them down. I called the dermatologist. I asked her exactly what the little green pills were supposed to do and she said it wouldn't cure my scalp condition; it would only stop the burning and itching. Those little green pills were useless and I threw them out. They were not going to free me from the green snake coiled up in my hair. The name of that snake is jealousy.

The Lord showed me the root cause of the problem and I repented from my sin of pride and vanity. **(Isa.3:16)** *Moreover, the Lord said, Because the daughters of Zion are proud And walk with heads held high and seductive eyes, And go along with mincing steps And tinkle the bangles on their feet, (17) Therefore the Lord will afflict the scalp of the daughters of Zion with scabs, And the Lord will make their*

foreheads bare. (24) ... Instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp.

I lived under a mountain of condemnation. No matter how much I forgave and repented of my sins, I always felt like God was mad at me. I am the elder of two girls and I felt like I was Esau and my sister was Jacob. ***(Heb.12:17) For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears. (Rom.9:13) Just as it is written, JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.*** I was jealous of my sister. I felt like I was Leah and my sister was Rachel. I was unloved and my sister was loved. I was the one who had weak eyes and couldn't please my Heavenly Father and my sister was given wisdom and favor with God and man.

The Lord gave me this verse and it changed my life: ***(Gal.3:27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*** A year before this, my dad baptized me into Jesus Christ, which meant I fulfilled the beginning of the verse. If I was baptized into Jesus Christ, then I was clothed with Christ! I was bouncing off the walls! I was firmly convinced I was clothed with Christ.

I told my family about that verse, confessing I was clothed in Christ. My dad and sister said I still had to manifestly be clothed in Christ. I told them that's not what the verse said. It was a very plain and simple verse. I understood it perfectly and I wasn't budging from my stance.

I was so ecstatic over that verse and I told them with a huge smile on my face, "Nobody can talk me out of that promise." My mom turned to me and said, "Grab onto that promise with your stubborn mentality and don't let go."

Early the next morning, something flew out of my left nostril with extreme force and woke me up. I heard the sound of a loud rushing wind and I physically felt the force. Whatever it was hit my window and caused it to rattle. I jumped out of bed, expecting to see a broken window, but it was completely intact. That had never happened to me before but I knew I didn't imagine it or dream it.

I told my family what happened and my dad said a demon was evicted because of my believing that verse. I was so happy and I became obsessed with cleansing myself from all defilement of flesh and spirit. By this time, my dad and sister were listening to me.

A few mornings later, while I was sleeping, my whole body cramped up painfully and then relaxed, causing me to wake up. I called my dad, crying on the phone because I was afraid the demon came back. He said the demon didn't come back but another demon left and wracked my body on his departure. He said demons typically do that when they leave. I was so happy and jumping up and down, praising Jesus. A few days later, my chest still hurt and I had a big bruise on my chest to remind me of my deliverance. It was simply a gift Father gave me to believe His Word. His Word is true. When you submit yourself to God, the devil will flee from you.

I learned the importance of meditating on the Word and each night I would pick a verse. I came across this: **(Son.4:1) ... Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead.** I was always attracted to any Scripture that dealt with hair because of my hair and the condition of my scalp. I knew there was a spiritual meaning but I didn't know what it was.

Despite not understanding this verse, I was going to

meditate on it anyway and I imagined my hair being like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead. As I meditated on it, I heard a voice say, “Don’t do that,” and it sounded like my own voice.

I flew out of bed and turned on the light. I looked under my pillows and tore my whole bed apart looking for something but I didn’t know what. I realized it was a demon using my voice and he didn’t like me meditating on that verse. I thought, “Stupid demon. If that verse is causing such an uproar with a demon, I’ll meditate on it every waking moment.” The next day, as I was meditating on it, I heard another voice squeal my name. The Word of God is alive! A few weeks later, my mom was cutting my hair at the beauty shop and she commented that there was a huge improvement. She said an amazing thing was happening and my hair was growing in thick and long. **(Son.7:5) *Your head crowns you like Carmel, And the flowing locks of your head are like purple threads; The king is captivated by your tresses.***

It’s easy to see the faults in other people but it’s difficult to see the faults in yourself. So I decided to ask my sister what my problem was because I knew she would be brutally honest. She told me I had a spirit of rejection. She said that demon was the cause of my scalp condition. I was easily offended and hurt and it manifested in my scalp being irritated and tender. I decided to take her at her word and fight the spirit of rejection.

My sister showed me this Scripture: **(Luk.21:12) *But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. (13) It***

will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. (14) So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; (15) for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. (16) But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, (17) and you will be hated by all because of My name. (18) Yet not a hair of your head will perish. Suffering rejection is a part of taking up your cross and following Jesus. It's forgiving those who do you wrong and turning the other cheek.

A few weeks later, I was at the mall with my family. I saw a really neat soap dispenser that I thought my mom should buy but she said she didn't like it. Then I saw a perfect soap dispenser for my sister's bathroom but she didn't like it either. The words, "So what's wrong with *my* soap dispenser" flew out of my mouth and I was hearing them for the first time myself. I realized what I said was so outrageous and so unreasonable. For the first time, I saw how easily I was offended. I finally saw for myself the spirit of rejection in me.

One night, I asked Father for a Scripture by lot: **(Luk.9:42) While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.** I thought Jesus did it for the boy only but I wanted Him to do it for me. But then my sister showed me Jesus' words: **(Mar.13:37) What I say to you I say to all.** I was ecstatic! Jesus rebuked the spirit of rejection in me and healed me and gave me back to my Heavenly

Father.

The spirit of condemnation would overwhelm me and one night while meditating on: **(Rom.6:11) *Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus***, another demon flew out from behind my right ear with force. I felt and heard a major vibration. I couldn't wait to tell my family. And when I said to my sister, "You wouldn't believe what happened to me last night," she asked, "Now what flew out of you?" The Word is alive! **(Luk.11:20) *But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.***

For days, I devoured *The Curse of Unforgiveness* audio series. I followed along in my Bible, highlighted Scriptures, wrote notes and searched my heart for any unforgiveness that may have been lurking. I devoured the *Overcoming Sin* audio series. I was on a mission to completely rid myself of the spirits of rejection, judgment and condemnation. I became obsessed with: **(2Co.7:1) *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

Early in the morning on May 19, 2010, I dreamed I had bloodstains all over me and a little boy with blonde hair said to me, "Let me help you." I woke up. I desperately wanted help! Immediately, when David Eells started the Bible study, *Deliverance from Rejection and Its Fear*, I knew he was talking to me! The Man-child was helping me and I knew my deliverance was already accomplished.

I was set free from the spirit of rejection and condemnation! The mental torment has been removed from my mind and I know my family will no longer have to tread

lightly around me. My Heavenly Father poured His love into me and I finally felt His acceptance. I was no longer rejected but accepted. **(Isa.43:3) For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. (4) Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life.** How can I possibly feel rejected? **(Rom.8:31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?**

I had been burnt to a crisp. But I learned the ashes of burning the wood, hay and stubble mixed with the water of the Word was a potent purifying cleanser, which is exactly what I needed. **(Num.19:9) Now a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and the congregation of the sons of Israel shall keep it as water to remove impurity; it is purification from sin. (Act.11:9) But a voice from heaven answered a second time, What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.**



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