

“UNFORGIVENESS”

By Geri McGhee
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"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. MAT
6:14-15

We not only have a need for God to forgive us but we must forgive others and our self as well. In John 13:34-35, Jesus said, “A new Commandment I give to you that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” The Christian is called not only to love his neighbor and his brother but also to love his enemy (Matt. 5:47).

1CO 13:4-7 says, “Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered (forgives), does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” If love is all these things, hate is just the opposite.

God will forgive us only to the extent we can forgive others and our self. Forgiveness is not an emotion but it is a choice. We do not have to feel like it, want to forgive, like to forgive, think it is fair to forgive or even that those we are having a problem with are worthy of our forgiveness. We choose to forgive because we love God and want to obey and please Him more than we want to hold on to unforgiveness.

To forgive means the act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings and errors. If I truly forgive, it means I will feel the same about a person after he has hurt me as I did before he hurt me. To forgive means to transfer a case from our court room to God’s court room. To put it simply, I get off my judges bench where I have been judge, make a choice to forgive and take the person/persons I have been judging, and put them in God’s court room where He sits on His throne as the great God and Judge of the universe. I then shut the door and in so doing, I release the person/persons to God and I rest my case. God says, “vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” Vengeance means the infliction of pain on another, in return for an injury or offense. You can rest assured that if you leave the matter in God’s hands, recompense will be made through the “Law of Sowing and Reaping.” PRO 12:14 says, “...the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.” Jesus said in MAT 7:1-2, "Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

We pay a high price in our physical bodies when we hold on to unforgiveness. When we are hurt, we get angry. Letting the sun go down on our anger gives the devil a foothold in our lives (Eph. 4:26-27). Anger carried through the night becomes unforgiveness and then we are opened up to bitterness. Bitterness then opens us up to torment, sickness and even death.

MAT 18:21-35 says we are to forgive 70x7 and that means every time we are offended. When we do not forgive, we choke the person with whom we are angry and throw them into a spiritual prison. God calls us wicked and turns us over to the torturers. The word torturers means: demons that inflict pain and the pain of disease. When we refuse to forgive another person, we bind that person to the very thing we hate about our relationship (JN 20:23). Unforgiveness also puts us into a spiritual prison and we will be bound there until we forgive (MAT 5:25-26).

Jesus in John 6:24, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge (decide) with righteous (correct, by implying innocent) judgment." This means we are to see the flaws and failings in others but look beyond them through eyes of love, forgiveness, compassion and with a heart to restore. This is only possible when we first get the logs (unresolved childhood issues) out of our own eyes. The people in our present circumstances are only mirroring the defects that are in us. Their specks are bothering us because we have logs in our own eyes. The logs are what we have done or what we have judged our parents for doing. When our logs are dealt with, healing and freedom comes and their specks are no longer an issue to us. Hallelujah!

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