

Church announcement

"Good morning, everybody. Sometimes it's hard to forgive others even though the Lord commands us to do so. It's even tougher to forgive those who have hurt us and to forgive ourselves. Raise your hand if you have ever done something you regret and have said "I will never forgive myself for"! Anybody besides me done that? Yeah, Me too. The problem is that if we don't forgive, it's like leaving the door open to your house. The enemy can come in and cause all sorts of issues including sickness. Jesus said if we don't forgive, then the Father will not forgive us. Tuesday evening Freedom Night from 6:30 to 7:30 Holy Spirit is going to set some people free from unforgiveness. You are welcome to come and bring a friend who might need to be there. Love to have you. Thank you and God bless you."

Open with song "The Lord's Prayer" warfare version

Share partial testimony re: Jacket and my own journey through deliverance and forgiveness.

Tell how God pursued me John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day".

I have some words to share that the Father gave to me and used to draw me to Jesus. When I got them I wrote them as fast as I could. I documented them. But I didn't understand them because the enemy owned me and blocked the meaning of the messages...over 1000 of them during a period of 13 years. Only recently within the last year has He removed the blinders on my eyes and let me see the meaning of these words and now I understand them. He was speaking to me in everyday language and all based on His Word. They match up to scripture. He is telling me to share them now as others will receive and understand as well. You can take these home and reread them and you will get more revelation as Holy Spirit applies it to your own life experiences.

This meeting is not a Bible Study although we will of course God's Word. I am not a pastor. I am a grateful believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who was rescued and saved by Him in 2012 at a point when I really didn't want to live anymore He stepped in and broke the spirit of death that had control of me. Then He led me to a Holy Spirit loving pastor at a nearby church in Daphne, Alabama, then some deliverance ministers and seasoned Christians who helped me get on my feet. Holy Spirit gave me a Jesus overhaul. Because I was saved and healed through deliverance my ministry is in that area and today we are talking about the power of forgiveness and the consequences of unforgiveness. Holy Spirit is going to do some healing this evening I believe.

Some of these messages are part of this sharing on forgiveness today as I believe He wants to use them. Also I have some things I was prompted to bring and we'll see how He uses those as we go...if at all...I have an idea about them but I'm not positive. Holy Spirit has full reign here. Come Holy Spirit and bring supernatural understanding of Your Word and your healing power. Let your grace flow and blinders be lifted as we let You guide us on this topic of forgiveness and unforgiveness and what it means in our lives today.

Read them together and share if you want what Holy Spirit is sharing with you.

Opening prayer

Father in Jesus' name I bind the spirit of confusion, doubt and fear in this room. I rebuke any demonic interference or distraction attempting to disrupt this teaching session. Holy Spirit we love You, You are welcome here and I ask that You guide and empower this time of learning and healing and may Your truth be clearly heard and received by all present. In Jesus name, Amen.

PLAY THE SONG ANGER AND FORGIVENESS when it's time for prayer and reflection after reading to the group Kevin Riordan's message.

These can be put on 3x5 cards and do a group Q/A like I did with National Seminars giving others a chance to answer so I am not "the expert" and to give others a chance to share

1. What did Jesus do on the cross
2. What is forgiveness
 - a. Forgiveness is the crown jewel of the Kingdom of God. The mercy you give is the mercy you'll get. The mercy you refuse to give is the mercy you will not get.
3. What does forgiveness do
 - a. Forgiveness breaks the powerful spiritual bond that locks people into a negative way of relating to each other.
4. Did/Will He forgive us
 - a. **Asking God's Forgiveness: Repentance**
 - b. Once we have completed the process of forgiving others, then we can come before God's throne and, with faith, ask for and receive the forgiveness He promises us, *if* we meet His conditions.
 - c. Let's look at this part of forgiveness called repentance. After we have forgiven others, we are in a position to confess our sins to God and to ask for His forgiveness. If we ask God's forgiveness with a repentant heart—a heart that is sorry and ready to change direction—God promises that He will grant forgiveness and cleansing to us. We read in Psalm 51:

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51:17, lq21

5. Is there an order to how we should approach forgiveness
 - a. Holy Spirit is in charge of forgiveness. We want to discuss forgiveness from the three essential directions: the ministry receiver forgiving *others*, the receiver asking *God's* forgiveness, then the receiver forgiving *self*, which allows the fullness of God's forgiveness to be received. The Scriptures underlying these different directions of forgiveness are given in Table A on page 38
6. Will God forgive all our sins
 - a. First John 1:9 is an important and favorite verse to share with those who know they have sinned: "But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing." This was a word spoken

to Christians, so John expected that Christians would fall into sin. We certainly can and do! Fortunately, God in His mercy made adequate provision for our fallen nature

7. My sin is so great how can he possibly forgive me

a. *An illustration*

- b. An Englishman had lived a racy life filled with gambling, women and drugs. As a result, he became powerfully addicted. God drew him out of his gutter life, miraculously saved him and set him free. The man became an evangelist. Some years later, as he was preaching in one of London's famous old cathedrals, he faced an unexpected challenge. As he mounted the pulpit of the packed-out service, he noticed a letter lying open on top of the Bible. Immediately, he saw that it was from one of his former gambling buddies, one who knew the most sordid details of his life. The letter said, "How dare you bring God's message! I know what you're really like. I am here in the audience, and if you dare to preach, I'm going to get up and expose you. I'm going to tell everyone what you have done." The letter went on to list a number of the evangelist's specific sins. It ended by saying, "If you've got any sense in this world, you will walk away from that pulpit right now and never try to do this again."
- c. By the time the evangelist finished reading the letter, he had already made his decision. In hushed tones, he began to read this letter to the audience. Concluding, he said, "I want you to know that everything this man has said about me is true, and there's a whole lot more that he didn't even list. But more important than that, I want you to know that I have taken all of this to the Lord. I have repented, and I have received so costly a forgiveness, paid for me at the cross. Tonight I want to talk to you about the power of true repentance and God's great forgiveness."
- d. As he was speaking, the people began silently to weep. In their faces, there was no judgment, and there was no condemnation. They saw in front of them a repentant, healed man who clearly knew the grace of God. It was as if the light of God shone out of him that night. Some of the people made their way to the altar while others stood and began to publicly confess their sins and desire to repent. As God's Spirit of repentance filled the people, revival broke out in the meeting and spread to neighboring villages until it had touched much of England. It all started with the simple sharing of what God can do when we ; come in a true spirit of repentance.⁶

8. What is Repentance

a. ***The meaning of repentance***

- b. The act of repentance is simple. It is coming to God to confess our sin with a heart of regret about what we have done and a heart commitment to turn and go God's way. Repentance means *to turn around and go in a different direction*, purposed intentionally to change. It translates into, "God, I am sorry and I am willing to take action. I am willing to work, to change and to let You help me stand against temptation. I set my face against sin. I am willing to pay the price to remove myself from all 'setups' that could draw me back into it." The consequences of true repentance are radical. They can include changing patterns, confronting, getting rid of things and letting go of "friends" and avoiding places where we like to hang out. We become careful about what we let come into our ear gates and our eye gates, what we let come out of our mouths and what we let dominate our minds. Repentance is radical. The arrow that represents one's life points in a new direction

9. Will God forgive me if I confess my sins

- a. ***God's heart concerning our repentance*** The apostle John lovingly assures us that: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹ John 1:9, KJ21

God promises two things: forgiveness and cleansing. His response to our confession is restoration: restoration of our lives and of our relationship with Him as we are freed from guilt, shame and defilement. He not only pours Holy Ghost "Clorox" on us; He also reaches out and takes us by the hand.

- b. It is important for the ministry receiver to be assured, to have it settled in his heart that he is truly forgiven. Often, we speak God's promise directly to him, affirming that he is now forgiven. Two wonderful Scriptures allow us, as elders in the Body of Christ, to be God's representative when this confirmation is needed.

"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:23, NIV, emphasis mine

10. Does God require us to forgive others

- a. The Need to Forgive Others
- b. In the Lord's Prayer it is clear that Jesus made the forgiveness of our own sins conditional upon our willingness to forgive the sins of others. In Matthew 6:15 He reemphasized this teaching by saying, "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father [in heaven] will not forgive the wrongs you have done."
- c. We are to relate to one another without bitterness, grudges or anything that puts up a barrier between us and our brother or sister. When it comes to forgiveness, the scriptural principles are uncompromising and non-negotiable. Forgiveness does not depend on fairness, on whether a person feels like it or not, or who was in the wrong. God simply tells us repeatedly that we *must* forgive.

11. Story of servant forgiven much who did not forgive

12. What are the consequences if we don't forgive

- a. God's consequences of unforgiveness are sure. If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us.¹ God may also remove his protection from us, causing us to be turned over to the • tormentors.² It appears that the tormentors can come in many forms: from bodily illness to tormenting demons.

13. How do I discern if my forgiveness is real or fake

- a. When we forgive, we choose to set them free. We don't hold the resentment; we don't hold the bitterness; we let go of our plans for retaliation. We let go of the feeling, "They owe me something." We set them free
- b. God wants us to forgive from the heart. Jesus says:
"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you [send tormentors], if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart." Matthew 18:35, NAsB
- c. That takes God's grace. We can't always start by forgiving from our heart, but we can begin by making the decision to forgive. Then we can enter into a healing process that, if we persevere, can bring us to the place of wholehearted forgiveness.

- d. You have said that you have forgiven the offenses, but....
- e. you feel sick at the thought or sight of them or the sound of their voice.
- f. You are angry over the fact that your friends still choose to be friends with this person.
- g. You take joy in bad things happening to them.
- h. You are angry when they succeed.
- i. Every chance you get, you talk about what they've done to you and what their doing to others under the guise of "people need to know what this person is really all about."
- j. When confronted you say "I have forgiven them", but you are deceived. That's what the torturers do. They convince you that your heart is right, and your unforgiveness is justified

14. Who are the torturers and what do they do

The Torturers are demons who have the legal right do steal, kill and destroy in your life due to undealt with sin.

The torturers will drive you harder into bitterness and unforgiveness, and then make you pay for it. They will convince you that being angry and bitter is the right response, and that you're bitterness is making them pay for what they've done, but the reality is that you're the only one paying the price.

The torturers give the illusion that unforgiveness is the safe and comfortable place, while they work to kill, steal and destroy you. They do this subtly, you never know they're there. Over time you become someone you never thought you would be. As long as you are with the torturers, you will never heal.

15. Can unforgiveness keep me from having full deliverance

Once the words of forgiveness have been spoken out from the heart, the power of a demon that has been controlling him through the sin of unforgiveness has been broken, and deliverance can then take place. We have probably seen more healing and deliverance take place through applying the principles of forgiveness than through any other spiritual discipline.

How is that story compare to Jesus forgiveness by His death on the cross

16. How do I know if I've been turned over to the torturers

There are many who have been turned over to the torturers, and here's how you know.
 You have become irritable and easily offended.
 You are anxious and depressed.
 You have started holding other grudges that you never would have held.
 You have become a recluse and have begun cutting off your friends but blame them and become angrier.
 You no longer sleep well and now have nightmares.

17. What kind of forgiveness does Jesus want us to give

18. How does satan trick us into giving false forgiveness

19. How do we know we have given true forgiveness

20. How powerful is forgiveness

- a. Once the words of forgiveness have been spoken out from the heart, the power of a demon that has been controlling him through the sin of unforgiveness has been broken, and deliverance can then take place. We have probably seen more healing and deliverance take place through applying the principles of forgiveness than through any other spiritual discipline.
- b. It's not that the Church hasn't known these basic truths before; it's simply that often it has not had the courage or conviction to tell people the truth as Jesus said it. Some theologians have tried to modify the teaching of Jesus to make it more palatable to the questioning, rational mind. This will never bring people through to healing or deliverance. It is only as the unchanging truths of Jesus and His teaching are applied in a person's life that "God [can] transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

21. Does forgiveness mean what was done to us by others was right

22. Do we have to be friends with those who have hurt us in that way

23. Who benefits by our forgiveness of others

24. Who is hurt by our unforgiveness

25. Why is forgiveness so important

26. What are some blocks to forgiveness

- a. **Some are ignorant of the Scriptures.**
- b. **Some think: I have to feel forgiving.**
- c. Do we have to *feel forgiving* in order to forgive? No! Forgiveness starts with a decision. First it is an act of the will. We have discovered that if a person will ask God to bring him to a place where he can choose to forgive, God will honor that. When forgiveness has been chosen and acted upon, eventually the feelings of forgiveness will follow.
- d. **Some think: It's too big to forgive.**
- e. Sometimes an offense has been so overwhelming and devastating in
- f. the receiver's life that he or she feels, *I know that I should forgive, but I just can't*. The wrong done seems insurmountable. Forgiveness takes time, and it takes God's grace.
- g. **Some may think they have already forgiven.** •
- h. Occasionally, we think we have forgiven everything when we haven't. "Well," he gently added, "would you be willing to ask the Holy Spirit one more time if there is any unforgiveness in any part of your life?"

Some may want to retain power.
- i. This one is interesting. Somehow, the ministry receiver feels that as long as he holds unforgiveness (and probably anger as well), he has power over the other person. It appears that this is a way to counter being a victim. Unfortunately, this strategy for survival is not in agreement with God's Word. God says to be empowered by His Holy Spirit, not by carrying unforgiveness.
- j. **We must recognize a spirit of unforgiveness.**
- k. The demonic *spirit of unforgiveness*, which tends to be passed down family lines, will do everything it can to prevent forgiveness. An entire family can be bitter and unforgiving.

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27. Can we forgive from a distance
 28. Is forgiveness an emotion
 29. Is forgiveness only a decision

- a. Another misconception is that forgiveness is limited to being a decision only — over and done with, period. Although forgiveness is a decision, it is more than the simple act of deciding. In most situations (and this is certainly true for the more seriously wounded person) forgiveness is a process that takes time. The wounded person must also do his/her part by acknowledging unforgiveness, looking at the full impact of his hurt, working through painful memories, and then reaching a place of forgiveness. There are no short cuts. Pretending would only sabotage true healing.

30. In what way can we be healed by our forgiveness toward others

31. Do we have to forgive everyone

32. What about those things we don't remember

33. Can we receive deliverance without forgiveness

34. Is unforgiveness a sin

35. How bad a sin is unforgiveness

36. Can unforgiveness keep us from entering heaven

- a. The means to avoiding God's discipline is to repent, confessing our sins while seeking the Lord's forgiveness, which the Lord will grant us as John promises:
- b. 1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- c. But Jesus says that if we are so hardhearted we hold other believers' sins against them and break fellowship with them, then the Lord will likewise withhold His forgiveness of our sins. Instead, He may bring us earthly discipline. (Sin has consequences) Our eternal salvation remains secure, but our earthly life will suffer.
- d. If we desire the Lord to forgive us of our daily missteps, we must be prepared to extend our forgiveness to other believers for their missteps against us.

37. What scriptures address forgiveness

38. What are the consequences of forgiven sin vs unforgiven sin

- a. I was again overcome by the story of David's sin against Uriah (murder) and Bathsheba (adultery) and God's response in 2 Samuel 11-12. David acknowledges that the one who has done such a thing deserves to die (12:5). But in the end Nathan says, "The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die" (12:13).
- b. But though the sin is taken away and the death sentence removed, Nathan says, "Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, *the child that is born to you shall die*" (12:14). In spite of forgiveness some "penalty" for the sin remains. I put "penalty" in quotes because I think we must distinguish consequences of forgiven sin (v. 13) from consequences of unforgiven sin. The latter are properly called penalties. The former we should probably call "disciplinary consequences."
- c. That is, they are related to the sin, and they reflect the displeasure of God for the sin, but their aim is not retributive justice. They are not part of condemnation. The aim of the consequences of forgiven sin is not to settle the accounts demanded by retributive justice.

- d. That's what hell is for. There is a judgment whose purpose is to vindicate the right by paying back the wrong thus establishing equity in God's kingdom of righteousness. This is done on the cross for those who are in Christ and it is done in hell for those who are not.
- e. But the aim of God-sent *consequences of forgiven sin* is not to settle accounts demanded by retributive justice. The aim of the God-sent consequences of forgiven sin are (1) to demonstrate the exceeding evil of sin, (2) to show that God does not take sin lightly even when he lays aside his punishment, (3) to humble and sanctify the forgiven sinner.
- f. Thus [Hebrews 12:6](#) teaches that "the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
- g. This is immensely important to teach in a day when there is an imbalance of emphasis on the Father's forgiving tenderness to the exclusion of the Father's forgiving toughness. Thus many people have no categories to handle the consequences of the sins in their lives except to become less biblical and God-centered in their interpretation of life.
- h. By the power of truth and the Spirit we must learn to revel in the grace of God, the forgiveness of sins, the hope of glory, the joy of the Lord at the very same time that we may be suffering from the consequences of *forgiven sin*. We must not equate forgiveness with absence of painful impact. David's life is a vivid illustration of this truth. May God give us the grace to learn it and live it.
- i. Cherishing with you the tough and tender truth of God,
- j. Pastor John

39. Does the Lord's prayer mandate forgiveness

40. How does forgiving others set us free

41. It's too painful to forgive so what can I do

The process to heal...

1. Recognize that the only one being destroyed by your anger and unforgiveness is you. The reality is that you have been deceived into believing that your anger and unforgiveness is affecting them. The reality is that everything that you want them to feel is actually coming back on yourself.
2. Go to God with your pain. Tell God how you feel. Forgiving does not mean you have to deny your anger or the pain in your heart. It also does not mean that what they did was okay. "God, I am hurting so bad, and I feel hatred for him/her for what was done to me".
3. Make the CHOICE to forgive them for what they did. Keep in mind, when you're raw with anger and pain, you will never feel like forgiving. Obedience to God is always a decision. Most times our flesh does not want to obey God in anything, especially when we're wounded. "Lord despite everything I'm feeling towards he/she, I am making a choice to forgive -- for --. God I choose to release them.
4. Ask God to heal your heart. When you choose to forgive, you open yourself to the free flow of Gods love. But this also gives you the ability to release love. This steady

flow of love works as an antiseptic killing any infection, washing out the wound so healing can come.

5. Forgiveness and the healing it brings, many times is not an overnight process. Just like a physical wound doesn't heal overnight, the same goes for your heart. When a physical wound occurs, it is important to continue to clean the wound out and reapply the needed medicine. Like a physical wound, you must continue to tend to your heart by reapplying forgiveness. When the temptation to rage begins to rise, shut it down through forgiveness.

42. They don't deserve my forgiveness what they did was too horrible

43. Why does God require total forgiveness (God's nature is such He cannot be around sin)

44. How do I forgive

- a. Forgiveness begins with making the choice to forgive. When it rises up, you put it down by speaking forgiveness and blessing over the one who hurt you. You must be unwilling to tolerate the angry bitter thoughts that will come. Instead of stating your case to others, state your case to God. Let no unwholesome word come from your mouth. Ask God to remove the poison from your heart. If you'll choose love, you'll choose Jesus. If you choose Jesus you will be free.

45. Can some things I need to forgive be hidden from me

46. Should I forgive dead people

47. Should I forgive myself

- a. Every one of us has made mistakes, and some of these have been serious, leaving us scarred in a variety of ways. I often ask people at a meeting to put their hands up if they have ever said to themselves, *I will never forgive myself for . . .* It is always a revelation to people that more than half of those present have at some time or another held themselves in bondage through making such a statement.

It is even possible to place a curse upon ourselves by being in bondage to an experience of the past for which we are unwilling to forgive ourselves. We can effectively give permission to the enemy to hold us to the guilt of what we did.

48. What if I can't and don't forgive myself

- a. He "redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13, NRsv). The effects of every single curse that the enemy might place upon us were dealt with at Calvary, and if we refuse to forgive ourselves, we spurn the provision Jesus made for us on the cross.
- b. Alternatively, the curse can be self-applied when we choose not to forgive ourselves for something that, if it has been rightfully confessed, God has forgiven. Satan rejoices when we continue to condemn ourselves because of failures in the past. I am sure Jesus saw this danger in Simon Peter after the resurrection. If Jesus had not gone to him and personally recommissioned him at that point, I have little doubt that Simon Peter would have finished his life as a bitter, twisted old fisherman plying the fishing grounds of Galilee and wondering what might have been. He would have placed himself under the curse of never having forgiven himself for denying Christ three times before His crucifixion.

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- c. Forgiving oneself for the mistakes of the past is a liberating experience that undermines the roots of much demonic power.

Scriptural basis for self-forgiveness

- d. There is no Bible verse that directly instructs us to forgive ourselves. Therefore, if someone wants to avoid this step, he can justify it as "non-scriptural." We submit, however, that certain principles are expressed in the Bible that strongly encourage self-forgiveness. Also, we frequently see great freedom and release come when a person forgives himself. Why avoid a step that might bring more healing, deliverance and freedom?
- e. We start out with the second commandment, as Jesus declared in Matthew.
- f. "And the second is like unto it: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'"
- Matthew 22:39, KJ 21
- h. When a person is holding self-hate, he is not loving himself, and he is usually not loving his neighbor, either. Self-forgiveness can lead to self-acceptance, peace and the "loving" of oneself. Then the "neighbor" can benefit, as well.
- i. Now, let's go back to the verses that direct us to forgive others. For example, in Mark, Jesus said:
 - j. *"Forgive if ye have aught against any, that your Father also who is in*
 - k. *Heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*
- Mark 11:25, KJ21, emphasis mine
- l. The "any" that a person may have "aught against" could be himself! Let's clear out all "aught"!

m. Blocks to forgiving self

- n. In actual fact, sometimes the hardest part of forgiveness is to forgive oneself. Pride says, *Your sin is too big to forgive*, and unworthiness says, *You don't deserve forgiveness; you deserve to keep feeling miserable*. Both try to block self-forgiveness.
- o. In addition, the demonic spirit of unforgiveness, which works to prevent a person from forgiving others, will also work to keep him from self-forgiveness. This spirit will also team up with the demon of self-hate to stop the ministry. Deliverance may be needed, as well as helping the person choose to love himself as God loves him.

49. Can someone else help me to forgive

- a. The minister
- b. **The enabling power of the Holy Spirit**
- c. When a person is wrestling with forgiveness, don't merely pray a simple prayer. Call on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to help that person do what he couldn't do on his own. He also needs to seek the Holy Spirit's help. We remind the receiver that he has full access to the same Holy Spirit who enabled Jesus to say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." 4
- d. **The cross as the model of God's forgiveness**

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- e. Although we always pray for wisdom to present the great realities of our faith with anointing, the Holy Spirit will never lead us to manipulate or force people. In this regard, breakthroughs have come by asking the receiver to ponder the price Jesus paid for him personally to receive forgiveness. When led, we ask him to focus on his specific sins. This helps him gain a more personal appreciation of the cross. Then a thought-provoking question may be posed: "Is forgiving others truly asking you to do more than Jesus has done for you?" Forgiving others acquires a different perspective when we see ourselves in the light of the cross.

f. Consideration of the offender

- g. "Hurt people hurt people," Sandra Wilson is fond of saying.⁵ That simple statement spells out a tremendous truth. It can soften the receiver's heart toward his offender to consider the pain in the other person's life. Did he get the love he needed? What hurts and traumas did he experience? Was he emotionally abandoned, abused or caught in some web of deception? Again, the purpose is not to coerce through pity, but to help look at the facts and provide the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work compassion through this information.

h. Knowing Satan's schemes

Sometimes it helps us to decide to forgive others when we realize that, by holding unforgiveness, we have fallen into one of Satan's traps and allowed him to outwit us. As a result we have left wide-open doors for demonic oppression.

50. Should I forgive the devil

51. Does Forgiveness equals healing?

- a. *A common misunderstanding is that once the offender is released, all the pain will automatically leave one's heart.* No! That is not true. Frequently, because a person still feels pain, he thinks, *Well, there must be something wrong with my forgiver,* so he "cranks up" and forgives again. When the offense is forgiven, the healing has only just begun. The person then *needs God to come and heal his heart and take away the pain.*³ That is the way the pain will leave.

52. What if I forgive someone and they don't forgive me

53. How should I respond when someone has offended me

- a. "If you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go) in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings."

1. Mark 11:25-26, AMP

54. How many times do I forgive someone

- a. Forgiveness needs to take place as long as there is remaining hate, bitterness, resentment, blame or a desire for vengeance or punishment toward another person.

In Matthew 18:21-22, Jesus told the disciples that we need to forgive in an unlimited way. We need to live in an attitude of forgiveness. When Simon asked Jesus how often he needed to forgive, His response of "seventy times seven" could just as easily relate to forgiving the same person many times for the same offense (when different levels of pain surface) as forgiving someone for a series of different offenses.

55. What stuff comes in if I don't forgive (song)

56. Can unforgiveness make me sick

57. Can forgiveness truly set me free

58. If I don't forgive will I go to hell (what is the sin nature – I don't know – tormentors can get you)

- a. The Lord is coming back for a pure and spotless bride. For many, the anger, unforgiveness and bitterness will be a stain on your wedding clothes that will separate you from the bridegroom .
- b. *UNGODLY BELIEF:*
- c. *Many people would like to think that it doesn't really matter what you believe or what you do, because God is so loving that He wouldn't withhold forgiveness from you or not allow you to enter the Kingdom of heaven.* Such beliefs, however, are not consistent with Scripture, and while some would say it is too hard to tell hurting people such uncompromising truth, I would respond by saying it is more harmful not to tell them the truth in love as Jesus clearly demonstrated in His life and teaching.
- d. In practice, we have found that sharing truth with deep love and compassion makes it possible for people to both forgive and receive forgiveness. To know that they are forgiven, sometimes for the very first time in their lives, can be the most significant healing experience they will ever have. The relief is profound as the influence of the powers of darkness is broken down through the application of truth.

59. Is there anything else I should do after I forgive someone (repent and bless)

60. Do I need to forgive God

no way that God can sin, and so in practice there is nothing for which He needs to be forgiven! The solution is to repent of blaming God for things that were not His responsibility, to forgive the real human culprits (if there were any) and to tell Satan that there is no way we are going to let the consequences of any attacks of his be ground for demonic access.

I'm sorry for my sin but I just can't believe God will forgive me

Receiving God's forgiveness

What about the person who is repentant and can eat plenty of "humble pie," but who can't accept that God truly forgives him? His "forgiven" receiver isn't working. Have you known anyone like that? Betsy had a dear friend who spent hours on her face repenting, only to come away saying, "God hates me, God hates me." She had trouble receiving His forgiveness.

Wouldn't it be great if there were a shop for broken "forgiven" receivers? You, dear friend, may be that shop! Broken "forgiven" receivers are repaired as people come to have an understanding, a *revelation*, if you please, *of the Father's heart*.

How well Betsy remembers the day that she came upon this verse in Isaiah:

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, *for my own sake*, and remembers your sins no more."

Isaiah 43:25, NIV, emphasis mine

For "Your own sake," God? Yes, that is Your heart. That's the Gospel message. For Your own sake because, above all, You want to be in fellowship and in loving relationship with us. The light began to break in on Betsy's heart. The God of the universe wanted to forgive *her sin* for *His , own sake*.

Yes, forgiveness was always His plan. Yes, the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.¹⁰ God has always made a way for restored relationship, from the institution of the sacrificial system to the cross, where He forgave sin and it became a settled issue. Relationship is the Gospel message. Why? Because God wants a relationship with us. God forgave Moses the murderer and David the adulterer. Jesus forgave the

woman taken in adultery and the thief on the cross next to Him. To illustrate God's heart toward the repentant sinner, Jesus told the story of the watching, waiting Father opening His arms to his repentant son. That is the Father's heart. It was while we were yet sinners, while we were still in the pig pen, that Jesus died for us. Our heavenly Father provides forgiveness for the sake of relationship because *He* wants it. God says in Jeremiah:

"I will put My law within them and on their heart ... *for they will all know Me*, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember nomore."

Jeremiah 31:33-34, NASB, emphasis mine

Prayer

Father, You have made it clear that You require me to forgive. You desire the healing and freedom for me that forgiveness brings. So today, I choose to forgive all who have set me up to enter into sin and all who have hurt me. I choose to release them, each and every one. I let go of all judgments against them, and I let go of all punishments for them I have harbored in my heart. I turn all of this, and all of them, over to You.

Holy Spirit, I thank You for working forgiveness into my life, for giving me the grace I need to forgive and for continuing to enable me to forgive. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Prayer

Father, now that I have forgiven all others, I thank You that I can come to receive Your forgiveness. So I come to You, through the shed blood of Jesus and the power of His cross, asking You to forgive me of all of my sins. I acknowledge and take responsibility for each and every time I have violated Your commandments, as well as for the iniquity that is in my heart.

Holy Spirit, thank You for working forgiveness into my life, for healing me and for cleansing me from all unrighteousness. Thank You, Father, for restoring me to fellowship with You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen!

Prayer

Father, because You have forgiven me, I choose to forgive myself and to release myself from all accusations, judgments, hatred, slander, mistakes, stupidity and falling short of the mark. I choose to accept myself just as I am because You accept me. I choose to love myself because You love me. I even expect to begin to like myself.

Holy Spirit, I ask You, I give You permission and I expect You to work Your work of sanctification in me. I fully embrace this truth and look forward to working with You so I can be changed into the image of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen!

Table A: Scriptures Concerning Forgiveness

God's minimum requirement is that we forgive.

Luke 17:3-10

We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty (when we forgive).

0. Forgive those offending you.

Mark 11:25-26

Forgive if you have anything against anyone, or else God won't forgive you.

Matthew 6:14-15

If you forgive men when they sin against you, God will also forgive you.

Matthew 18:15-17

These verses provide the procedure for reconciliation with an offending brother.

0- If you have offended someone, offer reconciliation.

Matthew 5:23-24

For God to accept your gift, you are required to go and be reconciled to your brother.

God wants forgiveness from the heart.

Matthew 18:35

You will be turned over to the tormentors if you do not forgive from your heart.

God wants as much forgiveness as necessary.

Matthew 18:21-22

Forgive up to seventy times seven

After we have given and received forgiveness, God's heart is to forgive.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, *for my own sake*, and remembers your sins no more" (Niv, emphasis mine).

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together... Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow" (my).

Jeremiah 31:33-34

"I will put My law within them... for they will all know Me ... for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more"

READ THIS TO THE GROUP From Kevin Riordan

The terrible process of unforgiveness, and how healing begins.

Forgiveness is not forgetting and moving on. Making the choice to forget about something done to you does not cancel out its affects on you. Undealt with wounds will become infected and begin the process of killing you from the inside out.

This is the process of unforgiveness

1. The offense occurs. Instead of dealing with it by choosing forgiveness, we accept it and analyze it.
2. We begin talking about it to others. By talking about it, we nurse the offense causing it to grow. At this point, infection has begun to set in.
3. The enemy's voice increases, and Gods voice decreases.
4. Deception takes hold. We begin to experience depression, anxiety, anger, physical pain. Yet deception blinds us to the root of our issues.
5. We begin to believe lies about God. "God doesn't love me" "God doesn't care" "God doesn't want to help me". We May become angry with God. We begin to function out of an orphan spirit. "I guess I have to help myself". We begin to engage in sinful activities as a way to numb our mind. This only opens us to more demonic oppression, compounding our problems.
6. Undealt with wounds become demonic filters through which we view life. Undealt with wounds and unforgiveness begin to breed more wounds and unforgiveness that work destroy your other relationships.

7. We construct walls. These walls are the enemies of vulnerability and connection. Where there is no vulnerability, love dies, and relationships deteriorate. That if they ever really materialized at all.

8. When unforgiveness fully matures, you become closed to the in flow of Gods love, causing there to be no out flow. With nothing flowing in and nothing flowing out, your soul becomes a swamp, rotten and festering. This swamp is the habitat for the demonic to thrive and bitter roots to grow. These bitter roots produce rejection, anger, resentment, bitterness, pride, religiosity, deep deception. Infirmity, pain and affliction.

9. Left undealt with, these wounds will ultimately destroy your body and your soul.

The process to heal...

1. Recognize that the only one being destroyed by your anger and unforgiveness is you. The reality is that you have been deceived into believing that your anger and unforgiveness is affecting them. The reality is that everything that you want them to feel is actually coming back on yourself.

2. Go to God with your pain. Tell God how you feel. Forgiving does not mean you have to deny your anger or the pain in your heart. It also does not mean that what they did was okay. "God, I am hurting so bad, and I feel hatred for him/her for what was done to me".

3. Make the CHOICE to forgive them for what they did. Keep in mind, when you're raw with anger and pain, you will never feel like forgiving. Obedience to God is always a decision. Most times our flesh does not want to obey God in anything, especially when we're wounded. "Lord despite everything I'm feeling towards he/she, I am making a choice to forgive -- for --. God I choose to release them.

4. Ask God to heal your heart. When you choose to forgive, you open yourself to the free flow of Gods love. But this also gives you the ability to release love. This steady flow of love works as an antiseptic killing any infection, washing out the wound so healing can come.

5. Forgiveness and the healing it brings, many times is not an overnight process. Just like a physical wound doesn't heal overnight, the same goes for your heart. When a physical wound occurs, it is important to continue to clean the wound out and reapply the needed medicine. Like a physical wound, you must continue to tend to your heart by reapplying forgiveness. When the temptation to rage begins to rise, shut it down through forgiveness.

Lord, give those who hurt, the grace to forgive and continue to forgive. Jesus, would you touch their hearts. Would you give them your heart for those that have hurt them. Jesus, I pray for grace and peace to be released right now, in the name of Jesus!!

Play Anger and Forgiveness song