

“To err is human to forgive is divine” echoes with the power inherent in this familiar quotation. It is a reminder of what God has done for us in sending Jesus, and what we must do towards one another.

Forgiveness, a seemingly impossible act in many circumstances brings great victory in our lives when we do what God asks. To forgive is a divine act, which seems out of our reach much of the time. How can we forgive those who have hurt us and forget what they have done? Only with our obedience to God and His Word are all things are possible.

Every one of us have gone through things which have left us hurt, wounded, and even betrayed. We are left wondering, is there no relief, no justice? Do I have to live without peace or rest in my life over what someone did to me? No! Praise be to God, in Him we can find the rest and the peace we need. Our decision to forgive, is where the healing process starts.

We must come to the realization that our relationship with Jesus Christ is more important than holding on to our hurts and wounds. Unforgiveness if not dealt with can cause us to become bitter and angry in our hearts. Jesus Christ is bigger than all our hurts and wounds and the feelings we experience when we have been done wrong.

The distress we feel is real, but we must know beyond a shadow of doubt that we can choose to forgive. Even though the event is painful, bewildering and sometimes shocking, we can choose to walk away. We can choose to stand in the power of forgiveness by obeying God's Word.

What happens when our feeling are hurt, or we are done wrong? Although we do not want to hear the answer it is our own pride that is the culprit. We were insulted, we were misused, we were taken advantage of, and so

forth. Probably the thought never enters our minds that we might be grieving Jesus by our actions. He set forth the example how we are to deal with wrongs done to us. He was wounded, rejected, misused, abused and finally crucified by the ones He came to save. Yet, he chose not to entertain unforgiveness because of their actions. He chose to keep His relationship with the Father at all costs and even at the point of death cried out, “Father forgive them they know not what they are doing”. Can we do any less than follow the path Jesus has set before us? Following in His footsteps is the only way we can have the power to walk in forgiveness and ultimately to forget.

He is the one who will never hurt or wound us. Look what He did for us to be free, Isaiah 53:4-5 *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and*

carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him

FORGIVE AND FORGET!

stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

FORGIVENESS CHANGES US!

When we decide to forgive it does not change what was done to us, but changes us. Instead of an eye for an eye reaction, we respond in God's love. Forgiveness is not about what was done to us, rather it is about us and God. Will forgiveness stop us ever being hurt by people again, no? But obeying God and deciding to forgive will bring healing to our lives and not hinder our relationship with God. Not forgiving will short circuit the flow of anointing in our lives.

One of the hindrances to forgiving others is many of us have difficulty in forgiving ourselves. This we must do. Forgiveness is based

in love. The Word of God says in Matthew 19:37-39 *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* Because of not loving ourselves we have trouble forgiving ourselves. This causes us to have difficulty in loving others and therefore we are not quick to forgive them when they do us wrong. What is it that Matthew 6:43-44 says, *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"*

GOD IS HAPPY!!

When we walk in forgiveness, God is happy. Why, because there is nothing between us and Him. But when we walk in unforgiveness look what happens. The person and/or wrong gets between us and God. Resulting in their dominating our time, energy, and conversations because we constantly rehearse the hurt. What has happened, we focus on them more than we focus on God, thus entering into the realm of idolatry. An additional note here is the other party by our actions have now taken control over part of our lives. In the natural it seems very unfair to us that when we are done wrong we must do right or end up in sin. But obedience to forgive (doing what is right) opens up the flow from God to receive healing of our hurt and wounds. By forgiving we have released the other party for God to deal with, not us. Our decision removes the person from between God and us and gives God the opportunity to heal both parties involved. We have all had the opportunity to be hurt by leaders, churches, and others in the body of Christ? But our decision to forgive sets us free from a victim mentality, and the carnal thinking to just get even.

Unforgiveness follows a pattern when we are hurt. First we become angry. Second we will lay out all the facts to justify how and why we deserve to remain hurt. Thirdly we will seek out allies to help support or strengthen our being

hurt. The act of forgiveness has nothing to do with whether the hurt towards us was right or wrong, real or imagined. It has to do with our obedience to God's way doing things.

GIVING BACK LOVE!

The decision to forgive returns love for wrong to the person who brought the hurt. If we don't forgive then we return hurt for hurt in some way or another, and we become just like the person who hurt us. We react instead of responding with love and the Word of God. Once our decision to forgive is made God will flood us with peace and strength to overcome the natural circumstances of the incident. In time bringing us to forget what was done. The decision to forgive is a faith decision. It is not based on feelings, or the facts of right or wrong, or on the reaction of the other party. *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1)

As God's army for the last days we must forgive and forget all things done against us. We must respond to hurts with love and obedience to the Word and repent for our sin of unforgiveness.

The last day's revival and harvest of souls will greatly depend on our ability to move with God's program instead of what we think or want. God began the forgiveness process by the following action, *"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* John 3:16. The reason Jesus was sent was to bring forgiveness to you and I for the wrongs we have done. We must learn to give what was so freely given to us, to one another.

IT'S A LEAP OF FAITH!

Take a giant leap of faith this very day and make the decision to forgive everyone and anything that has ever hurt you or done you wrong. The resulting freedom in your life will overwhelm you. God's love will flow forth from you to others in ways you have may not have experienced. God is a good God and wants you blessed in every area of your life.

Do it right now, Forgive and Forget.