

# Forgiveness & Unforgiveness Pt.1

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**Joyce Meyer** said this... Many people ruin their health and their lives by taking the poison of bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness. **Matthew 18:23-35** tells us that if we do not forgive people, we get turned over to the torturers. If you have a problem in this area or have ever had one, I'm sure you bear witness with what I'm saying. It's torture to have hateful thoughts toward another person rolling around inside your head.

Unforgiveness is the single most popular poison that the enemy uses against God's people, it been said that it is one of the deadliest poisons a person can take spiritually. It may cause everything from mental depression, to health problems such as cancer and arthritis. I'm not saying that in every single case of cancer, it is due to unforgiveness. God allowed the Israelites to face diseases and sickness when they disobeyed Him (Deut 28:58-61), and when they would turn back to Him, He would heal their land and take sickness from their midst (Exodus 23:25 Deut 7:15). In the New Testament, Jesus gave us two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40), and if we break those, we can be opened up to curses, just as the people in the Old Testament were.

## 1. Two commandments given to us by God.

*And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, and AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*

Matt 22:37-40 (NASB95)

Jesus gave us very important commandments to follow; one of them was to love one another, as He has loved us (John 15:12). Love is the exact opposite of unforgiveness, envy, jealousy, hate, pride and bitterness. You can't truly love somebody and hold bitterness or unforgiveness against him or her at the same time.

## Our responsibility to forgive others

God sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins, so that we may be reconciled to Him, without spot or blemish. He asks that we give others the same forgiveness that paid for us. He tells a parable in **Matthew 18:23-35** that says the same thing: *"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24*

*"When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26*

*"So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' 27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' 29 "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' 30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 "Then summoning him, his lord said\* to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' 34 "And his lord, moved with anger,*

*handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."*

Matt 18:23-35 (NASB95)

## 2. Unforgiveness shows we don't really love Jesus.

*"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

True love doesn't hold bitterness or unforgiveness against that person. If we are bitter or hold unforgiveness against somebody, then we don't love them as Christ loved us. If we don't keep Jesus' commandments, then it proves we don't love Him.

- **Unforgiveness prevents God from forgiving our sins**

Matthew 6:15, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

- **Unforgiveness opens us up to the tormentors (the devil)**

"And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart." Matt 18:34-35 (NASB95)

- **Unforgiveness can block God from answering our prayers**

"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. <sup>25</sup> "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. Mark 11:24-25 (NASB95)

- **Unforgiveness can give Satan an advantage**

*But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, <sup>11</sup> so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

2 Cor 2:10-11 (NASB95)

- **Unforgiveness can prevent us from being fruitful spiritually**

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NIV)*

John 15:5 tells us that if we abide in Christ, we will produce much spiritual fruit, and the way that we abide in Christ is by keeping His commandments (verse 10). Verse 12 tells us that His commandment is that we love one another as He has loved us.

Therefore, if we don't love one another, as He has loved us, then we do not abide in Him, and how are we supposed to produce much spiritual fruit if we don't abide in Him?

According to verse 6, the branch that doesn't abide in the vine will be cast into the fire.

- **Unforgiveness can open us up to curses.**

When people in the Old Testament disobeyed God's commandments, it opened them up to curses "Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" (So Be It) Deut 27:26 (NIV) When people nowadays disobey God, it can do the same thing; it can open them up to curses. Curses can cause mental and emotional problems (Deut 28:28), physical problems (Deut 28:35, 60, 61), financial problems (Deut 28:17, 38, 43), divorce and unfaithful Spouse (Deut 28:30, 56), emotional stress (Deut 28:34).

Application: You have in your bulletin a piece of paper; now during the service as God was speaking through me someone came across your mind someone you need to forgive. I want you to write the name of that person on that paper and as a sign and symbol of you forgiving them I want you to crumple it up and toss it into the trash can on the way out, now I am not going to dig it out and look how many of you wrote my name on it, seriously let's do this so that we can begin to move on in life and allow Gods blessings to flow.

### **The blessings of forgiveness**

When we forgive, it opens us up to God's forgiveness (Matthew 6:15), it puts us in a receiving position when we pray (Mark 11:24, 25), it helps us become spiritually fruitful (John 15:10, 12, 5), and we will know that we have passed from spiritual death to being reconciled with our heavenly Father when we love each other (1 John 3:14)! When we keep God's commandments and love one another, we prove that we love Jesus (John 14:21), and we abide in Christ's love (John 15:10)! What a magnificent blessing forgiveness really is!!!

**Forgiveness is a decision. Make it and see great results in your life.**

**We will continue next week learning together about forgiveness next week we will look at receiving forgiveness.**