

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS KenCarpenter

From Page 9 ...did not want David in his presence, and then Saul dreaded him. That is, David's presence depressed Saul.

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."
-Hebrews 12:15

When someone hurts or disappointments you and you don't forgive them, does this describe what happens to you? Anger rises up, jealousy moves in, and then suspicion. Then you get your feelings hurt easily, and you can't open your mouth without being critical of yourself, the system and others. Anger turns to rage; then hate and murder; (character assassination) moves in. Next, come fear, anxiety, and worry; dread becomes a way of life with no peace. Then, when the pressure is on, the urge to run away comes to you and you want to remove them from your presence. You can see that person in a store and turn your head from them acting like you don't see them because you dread to face them. Depression moves in next along with hopelessness. Eventually, "Mr. Suicide" begins to talk to you saying, "nobody cares about you; just end it all." If these symptoms, from a root of bitterness, remain in your thoughts and heart long enough, diseases move into your body. Over the years, you go from one sickness to another.

The Power of Giving and Receiving Forgiveness!

Years ago, I was asked to go pray with a 54 year-old lady named Dessie that had brain cancer and was sent home with a prognosis of one month to live. When we arrived she met us with a towel wrapped around her

head, because she had lost her hair from the chemotherapy. In our discussion she told me that she was raised in church and that at 18 years of age, she was "hit on" by the pastor, she left and had never set foot in another church, again. She was bitter at him, the church and The LORD. I knew she had judged the pastor for his immorality. I also knew that according to Matthew 7:1-2, the very thing she had judged in him, she had done the very same sin, herself. I then asked her if she had been immoral too, and she said yes. I shared with her about Unforgiveness and Judging others, that night and with a lot of tears she repented of her immorality, chose to forgive that pastor, the Church, God and herself, and she repented of all of her judgments. We anointed her with oil, according to James 5:14-16 and prayed. That was the first day of December. On Christmas Eve, about 9:00 pm, I received a phone call from Dessie, she was so excited, coming back from the hospital, they could not find her cancer! A year later I received a Christmas card from her and she said, "I'm still cancer free and am moving to Elkton, KY. I then lost contact with her. Seven years later, I read in the paper her obituary. The Lord is faithful!

Now Let's Do A Personal Inventory Of Your Life.

Have you been hurt? Put a (P) next to any of the following you may have experienced.
 *abandoned by parent or mate *alcoholic parent or mate *cheated in a business/financial deal *lied to *promises broken *neglected by grown children *abused (physically/emotionally/ sexually) *belittled *divorced by mate *mate committed

adultery/other sex sin *parents divorced *publicly humiliated *rejected by parents or others *stolen from *slander/falsely accused *violent crime against self or loved one *rebellious/wayward son or daughter *let down by God *treated unfairly by employer *recall a childhood situation that hurt you *been hurt by people/pastor in the church,
As you reflect on the ways you have been offended, do you find any of these statements to be true?

- * Every time I think of (person or offense) I still feel angry.
- * I have a hard time feeling good about myself
- * I have a subtle, secret desire to see (them) pay for what (he/she/they) did to me.
- * Deep in my heart, I wouldn't mind if something bad happened to the person(s) who hurt me.
- * I sometimes find myself telling others how (the person) hurt me.
- * If (the person's) name comes up, I am more likely to say something negative about him/her than something positive.
- * I have a distance and inability to give or receive love and acceptance. These emotions will manifest in us when the pressure is on.

Put a check mark (P)

- *Anger *Critical (Fault finding) *Dread-Fear-Worry *Jealousy *Judgmental * Revenge *Sarcasm *Suspicion (hard time trusting) *Depression * Hurt feelings *Irritability * Impatience *Rage * Thoughts of Suicide

Has God revealed any lack of forgiveness in your heart?

Do you desire to be set free from the prison of unforgiveness?

Are you ready to choose the pathway of forgiveness?

The Power of Prayer
 "Father, forgive them" is the most powerful prayer

that you can ever pray.
 • It transforms your relationship with God.
 • It releases the power of the Holy Spirit into your life.
 • It restores your soul.
 • It opens the door to God's healing.
 • It transforms your relationship with others
 But none of us can truly pray this extraordinary prayer until we have learned to forgive others for what they have done to us. And sometimes we need to forgive ourselves before we are able to turn our hearts toward blessing other people.

A Prayer For Deliverance

Lord, I ask that You forgive me of all unforgiveness, judgments, and murmuring I have had against You and anybody else that has hurt me. I choose to forgive them and bless them now. Lord, I confess anger, hate gossip, and slander that went out of my mouth, which exposed that my heart was full of unforgiveness. Lord, release all that unforgiveness, hate, anger and murder. I command all those unclean spirits of fear, anxiety, worry, dread, depression, suicide, and sickness to leave me now, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I plead the blood and the finished work of Calvary over my life. Lord, I love You with all my heart. I thank You for the truth that is setting me free, in Jesus name. Lord, I know that I will be tested whether I have spoken empty words or spoken from a true desire in my heart to please You. (Every word of God is tested - Proverbs 30:5) Please give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to perceive Your unsearchable riches; to hear Your voice, and walk bearing fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness) and find Your rest. AMEN!

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"And the gospel must first be published among all nations." - Mark 13:10

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