



THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

By Ken Carpenter
elderkc134@gmail.com

As an air-conditioning contractor in Hendersonville, Tennessee, I installed a heating and cooling system for the Mayor's brother.

One Friday morning I received a telephone call from him asking me to send a service man, to start his new heating and cooling unit in order for him to be able to move into his new home. The electric power had been turned on the same morning the concrete had been poured for the new driveway. My serviceman arrived, and did not realize the concrete was wet, and drove down the new driveway. My service man, stepping out of the truck said, "Oops!"

That afternoon I received a phone call from the owner who explained to me he had two tire tracks down his driveway about a half-inch deep. He informed me that the concrete man had examined the damage, and said the only thing he could do was to saw the drive at the end of the tire prints, and jack-hammer the damaged concrete out, and re-pour at my expense and call me on Monday.

After I hung up the phone, I became enraged at the service man. As I was venting my anger, a minister friend of mine, Charles Green, who happened to be in my place of business said, "Let's go to your office and talk." As we shut the door, he said plainly to me, "You know, as a Christian, you are going to have to forgive this man." This calmed me down. We prayed together, and I said, "Lord, I choose to forgive this man for his mistake. Lord, you will have to handle the concrete."

Monday rolled around and the owner didn't call. Tuesday, about lunchtime, as the service man drove by the owner's house, he called in on the two-way radio in excitement, and said, "A miracle has occurred. The concrete is picture perfect!"

I knew in my heart that if I hadn't forgiven the service man, I would have been spending a large sum of money to fix the driveway. As a young Christian, ignorant of a mighty God and His ways; I started studying about forgiveness and what would motivate the Lord to do such

a miracle. I knew faith wasn't the issue. When we prayed and asked the Lord to handle the problem, I never dreamed He would simply fix the concrete. I figured I would have peace; that things would go well with the insurance company and the owner, which I suppose, was a form of faith.

I knew that if we forgive others, the Heavenly Father will also forgive us (Matthew 6:14). In Matthew 18:21-22, Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" Jesus answered and said, "I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven." Which means, don't ever quit forgiving. Then Jesus told a parable about a man forgiven of a tremendous debt of 10,000 talents. Today, that's approximately \$18,000,000,000.00, i.e., 18,000 individual stacks of a million dollars! This was a sum of money he couldn't live long enough to pay back, but he was forgiven the debt. But, this man that was forgiven went out and found

a fellow brother who owed him a small debt, (approximately \$16.00) and wouldn't forgive him, but kept him in bondage to the debt. When his lord found out about it, he was angry with him, and turned this man over to the tormentors. Jesus says in Matthew 18:35, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses."

Mark 11:25-26 also says, "And whenever ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." **We can't afford bitterness**

Let's turn to the Old Testament. In 1 Samuel chapter 17, David has killed the giant, freeing his people from oppression. In 1 Samuel 18:7, David is a hero and everybody is joyful except King Saul. The king is angry, jealous and suspicious of David. I ask you, did Saul forgive David? What did Jesus say would happen to Saul or anyone who didn't forgive in Matthew 18:34-35? Jesus said, they would be turned over to the torturers, which is torment by the heavenly Father.

Now, let's see what happened to Saul in 1 Samuel 18:10-15. In verse 10, an evil spirit (a tormentor) from God came mightily upon Saul and he raved (he was in a rage). Saul hurled a spear at David and tried to kill (murder) him. Saul was afraid of David. Saul...

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tonight and here you are sitting beside me now on my blanket.

WOW! One minute I'm hurrying home in my car and the next minute I'm sitting with someone I know on her blanket because the Lord has a word for her!

I repeated to her the word from the Lord and that it was for her. She said, "Would you please pray for me now?" So I did; and again, I felt an impression in my spirit:

So I spoke the words: The Lord would say to you, "Daughter, You have remained faithful to me. You have kept yourself pure. You will have the desires of your heart. Just continue to follow me and I will show you the way."

Then I explained to her, Honey, I believe God has you in the palm of His hand. I believe, it's like you're in an incubator. This is the Perfect place for you to be right now. Just continue to trust Him with your desires. While you're there you are growing in Him I'm believing He has you in a place of protection and you're growing into the young woman He wants you to be. And as you are grow-

ing in His ways you will reach the point where you are ready to be the exact perfect wife for the husband you will meet. Shall we pray for you for all of these things and also pray together for your future husband? - That God will also keep him in an incubator to grow in the Lord until he is the perfect husband -to- be for you too? She agreed and so we prayed. Then I looked down wondering what was in my hand. It was an extra large dinner napkin like you would have at a formal dinner. (It came from the lady's house I had just visited. To this day I have no memory of bringing this with me.) I put it in her hand so she could wipe her tears.

That day God answered a young woman's prayers. Even though I was busy, He used me in the process. God wants to use us. He will if we are willing to stop and turn (When he says). Are you searching for answers for your life? He says: "Call unto me & I will shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." Call out to Him today.

Testimony... Call Unto Me

By Robin Art

From Page 8 ...WARD!!! "Hi, I said to her. "OH, HI! How have you been, the girl said with great joy."

It was only then that I could see we knew each other. This was a dear young woman from our church youth group! She patted her blanket. Come sit, she said. I explained I couldn't see who she was when I walked by her before, and I discerned I had a message from the Lord I needed to give her.

"Call unto me & I will shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not," was His message to her.

"Oh My Gosh, she said", as she began to cry. She said, "She'd been sitting on that blanket until dark pouring out her heart to the Lord." She explained,

I was asking Him to Please send me somebody to talk to because I just don't know where my life is going." She said she told Him, "Lord I'm in my 20's now and I don't know what my life is going to be. I don't know if I'm supposed to leave the area or stay here for college or what I will do. And more than that I want to find a husband. I told Him, Lord, I have followed you faithfully. I have saved myself for whoever my husband will be and I am so lonely. I see most of my friends and they're out dating guys and doing stupid stuff with them but I have kept myself pure and my life is going nowhere and I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I was crying out for the Lord to just send me somebody to pray for me

Bradenton Aglow Lighthouse



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New Hope Coalition, Inc. 7215 1st Ave W. Bradenton, FL 34209 Tel: 941-462-6825 | or 941-554-7701 NewHopeCoalition.org



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