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Unforgiveness And Bitterness  
"Learning To Deal With The Roots"  
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Unforgiveness is an area where most Christians have trouble, regardless of what has happened in the past, unforgiveness has turned into bitterness and all the ugly things that are associated with it.

Heb 12:15 "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;" KJV

Diligent means a firm steady effort to accomplish what has been undertaken.

What are the roots, where are they located, what kind of fruit do they produce and what can be done to rid yourself of them? Roots are underground and cannot be seen, many times a root in an individual will not be seen on the surface, they appear to be OK , but inside, underground they are hiding the roots. Roots always produce fruit and whether it is coming from a root of bitterness or another type of root, those closest to them will be able to discern that fruit. Forgiveness is probably the highest act of love that we can bestow on another individual.

Ephesians chapter 4 starting around verse 19, tell us what it is like to make Jesus Lord of our lives, not just Saviour but Lord. When we allow Him Lordship, we endeavor to be doers of the Word.

Eph 4:30-32 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." KJV

V. 30 - grieving does not mean quenching the spirit, not allowing the spirit to move the way He wants to move, but verse 31 gives a list of those things which will grieve the Holy Spirit.

Eph 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" KJV

In dealing with bitterness we must deal with the root, we cannot change the fruit until we have dealt with the root. We can sometimes deal with a portion of the root trying to cover it up or hide it, but until the complete root that stems from unforgiveness is dealt with, we will continue to have problems.

Sometimes people are willing to live with bitterness, recalling all the bad things that have been done to them, always blaming the others involved, not taking any responsibility for themselves, meditating on the problem and it continues to grow, it will create the same emotions like it is happening again, it produces torment with no peace.

Wanting to get the bitterness out of our lives, has to begin with forgiveness, but how do we forgive? Wanting to forgive will be hard if pride is controlling our lives, pride must be also dealt with in order to remove the bitterness and unforgiveness.

Eph 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" KJV

Bitterness is the father and has step-children; wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking and malice. All these things are "blessing blockers".

*Wrath* is explosive, is outward, boils up, blazes up and then subsides after outburst, doesn't last long or appear to hurt the one having it, but will affect others around. The cleanup is sometimes unpleasant.

*Anger* is inward, implosive, going around with an angry look on face, just mad at the world, all on the inside, holds on to an offense, doesn't want to let go, anger also wants to get even, revenge.

*Clamour* uncontrolled shouting, a controversy for arguing with no control over our tongues, outward manifestation of anger on the inside, it just comes out. James chapter 3 tells us the importance of gaining control of our tongues and what we say.

*Evil Speaking* says something about someone else in view of hurting them, enjoying passing on tidbits of gossip, slanderous, speaking of others with intent to hurt them.

*Malice* is a settled determination to get even or to hurt someone else, either physically or with speech, you lay awake trying to figure out how to completely get rid of them if possible. You have been hurt and are wanting the other person to pay for that.

Many times these bitteresses have happened during younger years, but have continued to follow into the grownup years and unfortunately many have never gotten over the mistreatment shown them. A story was shared regarding a woman who had been a asset to her family and church, however she was hospitalized and was found out that she had broken discs and the report was not good, told that she would not be able to walk again, her daughter heard a word from God and was told what she needed to do, forgiving of a family member from an event years before, lady responded asking for forgiveness and was able to forgive and receive her healing, was up again doing all the things that she had done previously. Unforgiveness had been a "blessing blocker", but God opened the windows and blessed her again.

There is a "pipe" coming to us from heaven "labeled the blessings from God", that will begin to stop up because of the unforgiveness, bitterness and all the other blessing blockers, it will cause the blessings from God to not be able to reach us.

1 Peter 3:7 "..... and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." KJV

Peter teaches that unforgiveness will cause prayers to be hindered.

Col 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" KJV

When we were in the kingdom of darkness we understood the principles of getting even, but after being delivered, we begin to see that forgiveness is the reverse of darkness. We must learn to walk in forgiveness. Unforgiveness is a poison.

Forgiveness is one of the principles in the kingdom, Peter had asked Jesus the question about forgiveness and Jesus explained and went ahead to tell about the wicked servant who had been forgiven many thousands of dollars, but after receiving his forgiveness of the debt, he turned on a fellow servant and demanded all that was due him. Upon Eph 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" KJV hearing what he had done for some others, the king reversed his declaration and sent him to prison.

Matt 18:21-22 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." KJV

Matt 18:21:24 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents." KJV

Matt 18:31-34 "So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." KJV

Unforgiveness and bitterness brings torment, makes a person unhappy, medical doctors tells us that it produces a poison in our lives. Forgiveness brings total healing and freedom in our bodies, example given of a man with crippled hands receiving his healing after repenting and bestowing forgiveness on those who had wronged him earlier.

Eph 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." KJV

Titus 3:3 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." KJV

Titus 3:3 "For we also were once thoughtless *and* senseless, obstinate *and* disobedient, deluded *and* misled; [we too were once] slaves to all sorts of cravings *and* pleasures, wasting our days in malice and jealousy *and* envy, hateful (hated, detestable) and hating one another" AMP

Being in strife with others is considered wasted days, but forgiveness brings deliverance, put those hard feelings away and forgive as Jesus has forgiven us. God forgives us because of what Jesus did on the cross, He paid the price. We are to forgive regardless of what others have done to us. We are to be bestowers of forgiveness because we are seated in heavenly places. Forgiveness is not an option; the root must be dealt with in order for the "pipe" to be opened.

Eph 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" KJV