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Walking In Forgiveness
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We have been learning how to respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the guidance that He places in our lives. Today's teaching will go in a different area, but still showing the effect that the Holy Spirit has in each of our lives. It is good for us to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit or the inward man that speaks to us.

Pro 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly." KJV

The candle of the Lord is like a flashlight, illuminates dangers ahead, shows the snares of the enemy that he had laid for us, it delivers us from accidents and calamity. There are things that cloud the window that this flashlight on the inside of us wants to illuminate regarding things ahead.

John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." KJV

There are things that we get involved in that makes it difficult for us to see what is ahead, like a dirty windshield you can't see clearly, those things will cause our sight to be clouded even though the flashlight is on.

One of those things is unforgiveness, it is something that is on going, people deal with almost on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit is speaking because He knows that His people are needing help in this area. There are different levels of forgiveness, some people have a tendency to wait for someone who they have forgiven to have a problem, almost wishing that something bad would happen to them, is this truly forgiveness? In Acts chapter 7 we read about Stephen and his final words regarding those people who were stoning him. His words were "Lord don't lay this sin to their charge". Making a statement like this, he wasn't waiting for something bad to happen to them.

We all face different challenges in regarding forgiveness, but we must remember to be quick to repent, forgive them and walk in love. We cannot allow unforgiveness or resentment to take hold of our lives, sometimes over a period of years not dealing with it, it only hinders our walk and the blessings that the Lord wants us to have. Forgiveness is a marathon to be run not a dash to the finish line.

Pro 24:17-18 "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: 18 Lest the Lord see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him." KJV

Pro 24:17-18 "Rejoice not when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles or is overthrown, 18 Lest the Lord see it and it be evil in His eyes *and* displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him [to expend it upon you, the worse offender]." AMP

Unforgiveness is one of the things that clouds the window, not allowing us to see what is ahead, the above scriptures show what our response should be regarding someone that we have forgiven. Not wishing anything bad happen to them, if we do, it will displease the Lord and come back on us.

Our enemies are going to fall unless they repent, but don't be glad about their fall. It shuts the door for God to deal with the situation if we try to handle the matter ourselves. Many people will never forgive on the same level that Stephen forgave on, they want to still have some control of the situation.

Rom 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is

mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." KJV

When we begin to walk on the level of forgiveness that Stephen had, we are forgiving like God forgives, no remembrance like it didn't even happen. In relationship in walking in forgiveness, God has given us a free will. Deuteronomy chapter 30 goes into detail, but if we choose not to walk in forgiveness that is our choice, but what we don't understand, years later that choice will show up in unfavorable ways, however, walking in forgiveness will show up in favorable ways. Any man or woman wanting to do things for God, must learn the principles of forgiveness, regardless of what has happened. David said in Psalm 55 that "it wouldn't have been so bad, but he was a close friend". It will take a greater level of forgiveness to those we have had a close relationship with.

Pro 26:2 "so the curse causeless shall not come." KJV

Jesus is teaching about steps to be taken by each of us in order to receive, having faith, saying not doubting and believing, praying and forgiving in order that we may be forgiven. Faith works by love, by hearing the word of God, by saying the word of God, by walking in love.

Mark 11:22-26 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." KJV

Mark 11:24 "For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]." AMP

v. 24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye *desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." KJV

*desire means to crave, calling for it, to search for something that is hidden, demands something that is due, pursuing it. All our desire will have spectacular answer to prayer, but hinges on our ability to walk in forgiveness.

"And" connects verses 24 and 25

Mark 11:25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop." AMP

If we have anything against another person we must be willing to forgive and forget, that means all persons, not just a few, in order that God can forgive us. We cannot continue to talk about the situation, if we are still talking about it, we haven't dropped it. Most believers continue to talk about and pick it up again.

v. 25 "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." KJV

Mark 11:26 "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." KJV

Gal 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." KJV

To forgive like Stephen forgave is challenging. Experience is the best teacher in bestowing forgiveness, God has forgiven us, so let us be willing to be forgiving people.

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

God has called us to a higher level, we are children of light, that is something we learn as we go through life. We all have different stories to tell.