

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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# The Power of Forgiveness



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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.

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.

Is this not a picture of salvation? 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**

To find out what was happening in the situation we will turn to the Old Testament. In 1 Samuel chapter 17, David has killed the giant Goliath and is coming back to town.

In 1 Samuel 18:7, David is a hero and everybody is joyful except King Saul. King Saul is angry in verse eight, and he is 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).

In verse 11, Saul hurled a spear at David and tried to kill (murder) him.

Verse 12 tells us that Saul was afraid of David. Verse 13 tells us that Saul did not want David in his presence, and verse 15 tells us that 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*

Now, if you will, do a personal inventory of your life.

When someone hurts or disappoints 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, comes fear, anxiety, worry and then dread become 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.

## **(Let's Examine Ourselves)**

(Have you been hurt?) Put a (✓) 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 (person) hurt me.

If (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 (✓)

- 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