

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;... 2 Peter 1:2

The Forgiveness Factor

Forgive and You Will Be Forgiven

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Hebrews 12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.” **27** This [expression,] “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

- **The Lord is coming**
- **And He is coming for a bride without spot or wrinkle**
- **He is cleaning house in preparation for His return**
- **He is using the broom of revelation found in the hands of His servants who have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church**

He is saying, “Forgive and you will be forgiven”:

Colossians 3:12 NLT -Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, **humility**, gentleness, and patience. **13** Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

NIV Version:

Colossians 3:12 NIV - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, **humility**, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

Forgive: *aphiemi* – It means to let go.

- **It means to release the offender from punishment, and to abandon all bitterness.**
- **The foundational root within a Christians life that allows them to choose to forgive**
- **That is with all the proper actions that follow that decision**
- **That root is Grace**

On the Other Hand:

- **The foundational root in a Christians life that does not allow them to forgive**
- **And all the actions that follow that decision**
- **Including but not limited to slander, and the exposing of the unforgiven one's actions**
- **This root is pride**

- Those with pride place God in a position that causes Him to resist them

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore [it] says, "***GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.***"

Humility: It means to be totally dependent upon God. Knowing that we have been forgiven as an act of His grace and not by any value of our own.

- Humility is not self-deprecation, it is thinking of oneself less.

The humble realize that the world does not revolve around us, we are just a small part of a bigger plan...

God gives grace to the humble:

- Without grace Christians fall into a state of bitterness
- Because God Who gives the grace to forgive has instead withdrawn Himself from them
- Because He resists the pride they have allowed to remain in their lives

- Now Bitterness Has replaced grace
- Bitterness is a deep-seated resentment caused by unresolved anger
- This results from an unwillingness to forgive the offender
- Bitterness will always be the result of the one who refuses to let go
- We are warned to not let a root of bitterness spring up in our lives for it will defile many
- It defiles because the Greek word for bitterness means extreme wickedness

- Refusing to forgive, that is to not let go of an offense, is the epidemic of disobedience and ungodliness
- No matter how justified one feels in refusing to let go
- What they are really doing is refusing to forgive as the Lord forgave them
- This is pride at its worst!

Remember what Colossians 3:12 says:

Colossians 3:12 NLT -Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, ***humility***, gentleness, and patience.

- Our sins are forgiven but our flesh nature remains naked and must be clothed
- Walking in unforgiveness exposes your nakedness
- Worse, it causes you to expose the nakedness of the one you are refusing to forgive

Jesus Said:

Mark 11:25 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. **26** ["But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."]

2 Chronicles 7:14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- When you refuse to forgive you are playing tug of war with the devil
- You are holding onto the rope of unforgiveness trying to pull it into the kingdom thinking you have a right to do this
- When really it is the devil on the other side of the rope pulling you back into his kingdom
- Let it go

Unforgiveness grieves the Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such [a word] as is good for edification according to the need [of the moment,] so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:30 *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit* of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Malice- *Kak-ee-ah* - ill-will, desire to injure

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- **We are not permitted to bring the sins of the one that Jesus transferred into His kingdom into His kingdom by holding on to offenses**

The word of God declares of Jesus:

- **That a smoldering wick He will not extinguish**
- **A bruised reed He will not break**
- **We all enter His kingdom with bruises**
- **We all enter His kingdom smoldering unable to burn on our own**

- **We come into His kingdom a mess, a work in progress**
- **So, we all must walk as wise men**
- **Putting off the things we need to put off**
- **And putting on the things we must put on**
- **There are no exceptions, we are not exceptions, we are not better than our brothers and our sisters**
- **We have received the mercy of God just like they did**

To Sum It Up, the Lord Jesus Said This in a Parable:

Matthew 18:32 "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."