

## The Power of Forgiveness

By

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We are called by God to **forgive** our fellow man of anything that they do against us. Why does God require this of us? The basic principle is that of **sowing of seed** and the **harvest** of what we sow. Look at Genesis 8:22. We see that the principle of seedtime and harvest is one of the four things that will remain as long as the earth remains. If we want to harvest forgiveness, then we have to sew forgiveness. Jesus taught this principle in Matt. 6:12-15.

If we forgive others of their trespasses against us, then it opens the door for God to forgive us. However, if we refuse to forgive others, then God will refuse to forgive us. Failure to forgive is one of the main doors we open that allows the devil to attack our lives, and in effect we come under the curse of the law. Jesus taught in Matt. 6:12 that we should pray to the Father that He forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Therefore, if we refuse to forgive those who are indebted to us, neither will God forgive us, (Matt. 6:15 and 11:21-35). In Mark 11:22-23, Jesus tells us if we have "**faith in God**", that we can speak to a mountain to be cast into the sea, if we believe it will happen, then it will. *This is POWER!* Having **faith in God** is merely choosing to believe the truth of God's word, (see **Faith is Truth** handout). Thus to have faith means that we must simply decide to take God at His word. If we read on in Mark 11:24-26, we find that the **power of faith** is released through prayer. Jesus then tells us here that in order for our prayers to be answered, we must **forgive anything that we have against anyone!** If we do not **believe** this, then we are calling the Word of God to be null and void, and we by default have no **faith** in it. This then becomes **sin** in the eyes of God, because **anything that is not of faith is sin**, (Rom. 14:23). Therefore, when we choose not to forgive others, then we are not forgiven and we are essentially placed back under the **Law of sin and death**. We then become guilty under the law, because we take ourselves out from under **grace**. This is essentially rebellion to God's word and a willful act of sin! When we do this, we have no longer a sacrifice for our sins and we can only expect destruction at the hand of God, (much of the time through the work of the devil). See Hebrews 10:15-39. The **curses** of the law that we cannot keep are listed in Deut. 28:15-68. Therefore, when we bring ourselves out from under **grace** and are placed back under the **law**, we are subject to these **curses** and **destruction will rule** in our lives!

Jesus Christ died for our sins so that we may be reconciled to God, (John 3:15-16, Romans 3:19-26, 5:1-11, II Cor. 5:14-21, etc.). All that we have to do is believe this to be saved from the law of sin and death, (i.e., have **faith** that this is **true**, Rom. 4:2-9, 10:9-13). According to the law, the **wages of sin is death**, (Rom. 6:23). If we are under the law, then when we sin, we will die. Also, as we have seen above, we will be subject to the curses of the law that lead to destruction in our lives, (Deut. 28:15-68). Therefore, we must stay under the blood of Jesus in order to be exempt from the curse of the law that leads to destruction and death, (Eph. 1:7, 2:1 through 3:12, Col. 1:9-14, 2:8 though 3:17). Thus, in order to stay under the blood, we **MUST** forgive other people, (i.e., 'anyone') of their trespasses against us.

We see in John 20:21-23, that after Jesus was raised from the dead, (and thereby showing us that He had *power* over the law of sin and death), He spoke *peace* to them. Jesus said that He was sending them as the Father had sent Him. He breathed on them in order for them to receive the *Holy Spirit*, and then He instructed them about *forgiving sins*, (verse 23). Now before His crucifixion and death, Jesus broke the *curse of the law* over people who were paralyzed by the law of sin and death by saying that their sins were forgiven, (Matt. 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12). It says in Matt. 9:8 that the people were amazed and they "...glorified God, who had given such **POWER** to men." So you see, the forgiveness of the sins of others brings the **POWER of God** into you life! The Father, with this power sent Jesus to earth. In like manner, Jesus sends us into the world to do the same thing, with the same **POWER, the POWER of forgiveness!** Read again John 20:21-23.

Jesus knew the *power of forgiveness* and He exhibited it in His walk here on earth, and as well on the cross, (Luke 23:34). Jesus said in Luke 24:44-49 that the Scriptures had to be fulfilled regarding Him. It was all about God forgiving of our sins us through the suffering and death of Jesus the Christ. Jesus told the disciples that they should preach repentance and remission of sins in His name to all the nations. However, they had to wait until they were "endued with the **POWER** from on high", (Luke 24:49). The *power* comes from the baptism of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 1:5-8 and 2:1-41). However, the key to receiving the *power* is through *forgiveness*, (John 20:22-23). If we walk in **LOVE**, then we will automatically turn everything over to the Lord and we will not hold anything against our fellow man, (I Cor. Chapter 13, Eph. 4:30 through 5:2). Therefore, if we walk in **LOVE**, we will walk in the **POWER of FORGIVENESS!** Amen.

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