

The Power Of Forgiveness - Part 2

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Andy Taylor/Trinity Fellowship, Sayre, Oklahoma

I know all of us do, but I will say that if you miss a Sunday, I'm going to be as forceful as I can to suggest to you that you go back and listen to what we talked about the week before, so you can be on the same page with us, because we're an organism, in progress. We're moving, and this house is really moving at a pretty swift pace right now.

The word that coming forward is as powerful as any word that has come forth through here in the 34 years we've been in existence. And all of that is to get you to the best place you can be, someone who is receiving, embracing, and learning how to walk in the stuff we talk about.

I want to say that this house ought to be moving in this Awakening better than any place that I know of. I'm commending you, because I can tell that you've been doing something with the word that you've been receiving. That's a big deal!

The feedback that I've gotten back from last week's word is that it wasn't just a message, a sermon, but a word from God for you, for this house generally, but for you, specifically.

This word will change everything about you, everything about how you think, everything about how you act, and reason, and decide. It's as simple as God doing a work in our hearts.

The smartest thing you can do is to throw the door open on your heart and say, "Father, have at me!". That's what He wants to do.

I see people who've been in a place where they've gone through some severe trials in their life and they have a thing against God. It's not wise to do that. I just want you and the Spirit of God to wrestle with that. It's going to take some relationship therapy, letting Him talk to you about a situation you think that He mishandled.

I see people all the time having a hard time forgiving themselves. When you're born again, you become what God planned for you to become all along: A NEW CREATION. Something totally new. It's a total transformation from who you were, to who you are, and who God wants you to *be*.

Colossians 3:1: "*You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation*". I really wish you would get a revelation of that.

When God looks at planet Earth, He doesn't see a lot of people. He sees you! He knew when He wanted you here, and the Bible even talks about some of these great men and women of faith of long ago would love to be here, to have this run, this stretch of time that you have been given.

So God has you on planet earth in an ultra-critical time to be a part of this. You have to decide, and time will tell. This may be the greatest move of God that the planet will ever see. Does anyone want to believe that with me?

You have been chosen for this generation, not to just be here, take up space. And just not just sit around and wait until Jesus comes back, or you die and go to heaven. Life's a whole lot more than that.

I have this feeling that this season is what my life has been all about. So the question is, could this season, for you, be what your whole life is about? I think it could be. We'll see.

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy (talking about you) and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. If anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things pursue love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you also were called in one body, and be thankful”. Colossians 3:12-15.

You already have favor with God right now. You should just receive that and start to walk. And that's what we call grace around here.

You're going to need the Holy Spirit to help you with unconditional love. Do you have anyone in your circle who is hard to love? God wants to use that person as an agent to lead you into Agape. A deeper level of love, so you can practice forgiving. You have a lot of opportunities in this life to forgive.

If you have ought against your brother, what you do is you take that concern to your brother. And the reason I know we're not very good at it is people were getting crossways with one another, and then they were bringing it to us. They were skipping the biblical part of it. The enemy will use anything he can to get you crossways with anybody who he can. He hates, he hates reconciliation.

Nobody can snatch you out of God's hand. But if satan can get you to harbor unforgiveness and bitterness and hatred and those kinds of things, then he's going to do it.

It's the nature of God to forgive you. If we're going to forgive like He forgave, it's a thing that is an act of your will. You have to decide.

“Well, Lord, how many times do we have to forgive? Seven times?” Jesus said, *“No, seven times seventy”.* He's talking about staying in a mode of forgiveness. It's a byproduct of someone you are.

2nd Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. All things have become new”. It's right there in you, right now, but you have to let it come through. You are letting the being of Christ come through when you give forgiveness.

If you want to be a witness to the world, maybe in the clearest way you possibly can, then forgive. It's that simple. You can tell how close you're coming to being like Jesus, by how quickly and how decisively you forgive. Forgiveness is a decision you make.

It's not a feeling you have. It's a choice you make. You keep making the choice to forgive until the feeling filters in somewhere along the way.

You've been washed, you've been sanctified, you've been justified. The word is clear that you have been forgiven. So, I'm in a place now where I don't ask forgiveness for every sin. This is really controversial, but I want you to think about it and listen.

I'm in a place where I am receiving God's forgiveness. And I think it does something in you for you to understand that you're already forgiven. It does something spiritually, internally, in you, if you believe you're already forgiven.

If you're His, you're forgiven. *"Well, you don't know what I've been through."* What happened to you does matter, but, as it relates to forgiveness, it doesn't matter.

Psalms 103:12, *"As far as the East is from the West, so far has He removed our transgressions from us"*. That's how God's forgiven you. What we're talking about here is, forgiving like He forgave. You're going to need the Holy Spirit's help to do that one. The process is worth the trip.

Hebrews 8:12, *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness. And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more"*.

I invite you to come to Wednesday morning prayer. It's been pretty powerful. Most powerful prayer times I've ever been in my whole life.

God has forgiven you and it did change everything. Not that it will. It did change everything for you, but you have to receive it. If you still have some unforgiveness toward someone, you can't move from where you are. You can learn a lot of stuff, but you can't progress spiritually until you get over that hump.

Sometimes, some days, I have the feeling of forgiveness, and some days I don't. Those days that I don't, I forgive again. Forgive, and forgive again. That's the process of it.

When someone asks you to forgive them, that's really, really a powerful moment. Because they're admitting, more than likely, that they wronged you, and they're asking you for mercy, for clemency, and that's a huge opportunity for you to give a quick yes. You have the awesome opportunity to set them free. And, what's more important, to set yourself free.

We're all His chosen instruments, too. We've all got a plan. Got a purpose. But we have to let go of this stuff back behind us. So I encourage you guys, whatever that stuff is, let go of it. Jesus died for it, every bit of it.

"If Eric can forgive himself, surely I can forgive myself". See, your story matters, and it gives encouragement to other people who need to hear that, who may be struggling with the same thing.

It's great to have some kind of atmosphere where people can tell their stories. I would love to get to doing small groups, because I think we're going to be pushed to move through this whole next season of life. So, you can tell your story. I want you to think about it.

You had a whole stack of legitimate offenses against you. The charges against you were not put up and were not phony. The charges against you were legitimate in the courts of heaven, and you've received a full pardon. You are innocent of all charges.

If you're not forgiving yourselves, it keeps you from living free and it steals your joy. If you can't forgive yourself, you are not going to live in any great level of joy.

If you are truly repentant and remorseful, you are forgiven. It just has to sink in on you. If you've not forgiven yourself, it's a reflection of how big you think God's forgiveness is, or is not.

I am saying it again; it takes some relational therapy between you and the Father. And you, putting those things before the Father, however they come out. That's between you and the Lord. Sit down, get some time and close out the distractions. It is a requirement! But you have liberty to do it, or not do it, with God.

It doesn't make logical sense for you to beat yourself up for something the Father has long ago forgiven you of, and has already released you from. You need a revelation of His forgiveness toward you.

You need to sit before your Father and put these things before Him and let Him deal with your heart. Fix your heart.

That's what God is doing in you. He is just chipping away the things that don't look like Jesus and sometimes he has to use a big hammer. That is getting that deep stuff, rooted down there, that has become a part of us. So get next to Him. Draw near to Him and let Him draw near to you.