

**I FORGIVE YOU...**  
**WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?**

**A message on forgiveness**

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### *I Corinthians 13*

- 1. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.*
- 2. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.*
- 3. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing.*
- 4. Love suffers long, and is kind; love envies not; love vaunts not itself, is not puffed up,*
- 5. Does not behave itself rudely, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, keeps no record of evil;*
- 6. Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*
- 7. Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*
- 8. Love never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*
- 9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*
- 10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*
- 11. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*
- 12. For now we see in a mirror dimly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*
- 13. And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Dear Beloved of God,

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father be unto you. It is by now clear to all that we are living in the last days. The Scriptures predicted that there will be sinfulness and offences in abundance. It warned that due to the abundance of sin many shall be offended and shall hate one another.

Our church underwent one week of prayer and fasting for revival. During this time the Holy Spirit led us to concentrate on the subject of forgiveness. This letter relates the need for forgiveness in the world as well as the church and sets forth that forgiveness is the key to the great end time revival.

The power for revival is contained in the grace of redemption through the forgiveness of sins. I want to talk to you about forgiveness. I want to impress upon you that we all experience offences that very often upset our lives. I want to suggest to you that the only positive and healthy way to deal with offences is to forgive.

I write to you so that we can commence the process of reconciliation that is so long over due. I pray that as you read this the grace of God may flow richly and grant us victory over the evil one.

## **Forgiveness**

To forgive means to pardon; to remit, as an offense or debt; to overlook an offense, and treat the offender as not guilty. What is implied here is that although the person has in fact caused offence or hurt or owes a debt, their fault is not held against them such as to seek revenge, punishment or repayment, but rather, they are forgiven and treated as if the offence never happened.

The term forgiveness is generally used in the Christian context in relation to how God and Christians deal with sin. Sin is an offence against God and is so evil that it is punishable by death.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death;

Eze 18:20 The soul that sins, it shall die.

1Co 15:56 The sting of death is sin;

There is no way to undo the past. Once a sin is committed there is no possible way to change that fact. It would therefore follow that a death sentence is ordered against any person that sins. The only possible way to avoid the penalty of death is to forgive the offender.

## **The Need for Forgiveness**

When offences occur and are not forgiven there results a breakdown in the relationship with accompanying negative thoughts, emotions, and attitudes.

Sins that are not forgiven are the grounds whereby Satan gets authority to afflict individuals with sickness, disease and ultimately, death. It is in the interest of Satan to plant and promote offences and unforgiveness among people so that he can introduce more evil into their lives. An unforgiving person therefore cooperates with Satan in his work to kill, steal, and destroy. The unforgiving person is therefore unwittingly a tool of the devil.

The person who forgives nullifies Satan's power and rights to destroy. Forgiveness therefore brings life, health and wholeness.

## **Procedure of Forgiveness**

Jesus has laid out the procedure for forgiveness and reconciliation. He instructs:

Mt 18:15-18. Moreover if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone: if he shall hear you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as a heathen man and a tax collector. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The first step in forgiveness and reconciliation is to personally confront the offender in private and rebuke him. In other words, meet with or write to them telling them how, or what they did offend you. If the person repents (shows sorrow and apologizes for their offence) at that point forgiveness should be extended and reconciliation enjoined.

If on the other hand the person does not repent, we are not to drop the matter. We are to pursue it to the next stage, that is, seek mediation and provide witnesses. The reconciliation process between God and man was accomplished through the role of a mediator, which is Christ Jesus. Therefore, we have a good chance at success if we seek helpers in the process of forgiveness. The point here is that unresolved

offences are so dangerous that no effort should be spared to achieve reconciliation.

The instruction of the Lord at this stage is to provide witnesses who can testify to the facts of the offensive incident. Witnesses are found in two ways; firstly, if others were present when the offensive incident took place they should be able to testify as to whether they believe the accused in fact offended the person claiming to be hurt.

Secondly, if the accused person has a tendency to offend, then there may be other victims of his offending ways. If there are any, two or three may be sought to testify as to their experience with the accused. It is important to note, that the testimony of the witnesses must agree with each other, that is, they must testify to having similar experiences. If each one has something different to say, then their testimonies are not in agreement and must be refused in this particular case.

The point here is that if a person does not habitually offend in a matter, but makes a one time mistake, there is no need to correct him, because it is not a pattern of behavior. Therefore, if no witnesses can be found then the offended person should be able to overlook that offence. The exception here is that if the offence or mistake is a serious matter, i.e., a sinful deed, then it must be addressed because a sin often indicates a pattern of behavior.

The person that refuses to repent stands in great jeopardy of destruction. For none can save him except the person that he has offended. Let him not allow pride to hinder him from humbling himself, for pride goes before destruction. If he repents he shall be saved, if not, he shall be damned. Salvation is a free gift but how shall we be saved if we refuse the Savior.

If we are dealing with a member of a church and that offending person has not repented after being approached privately and then by witnesses, the next step is to tell the matter to the church. This does not necessarily mean that the whole assembly should get involved. Rather, it may mean that the leadership of the church and perhaps a select number of members should be brought in to hear the case and make a final judgment. Testimonies should be given to the church by the offended person as well as the witnesses. The accused must also be given opportunity to make a defense. After due consideration the church must give a decision. If the offender is found to be guilty and chooses to repent at this point, forgiveness should be extended and reconciliation enjoined. If on the other hand the offender refuses to repent, the scriptural direction is clear,

...but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as a heathen man and a tax collector. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matt. 18:17,18.

1Co 5:5. ...deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The unrepentant person is responsible for the consequence of his sin. Here is where Satan is unleashed to afflict with sickness and death. Note that turning the unrepentant person over to Satan for the destruction of his body is to be done with an aim to save him. Thus, if the person repents while undergoing affliction or after being cast out, he becomes a candidate for forgiveness and reconciliation.

This last step may seem difficult, but to not do it may result in the offender's eternal damnation and the spread of the disease to others. However, take comfort in knowing that chastisement is an indication of love.

This biblical process of forgiveness and reconciliation reveals that forgiveness does not take place simply because the offended person says "I forgive you." That statement may simply indicate the willingness to forgive. For forgiveness to be effective, the offender must be brought to repentance. Jesus died two thousand years ago atoning for the sin of the whole world, nonetheless, individual's sins are not forgiven until they repent and ask for forgiveness. Likewise, we must know that we must confront the offender, bring him to repentance, and then can he be forgiven.

Many Christians assume that if they pray and tell God that they forgive the offender that takes care of the matter, no. Sure there is goodness in such prayer, but it is only an indication of your willingness to forgive. The instruction of scripture is as follows;

Mt 5:23-24. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you; Leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Yea! Sometimes as we pray people and events come to our mind pertaining to unresolved offences. We often seek to rebuke Satan at this point believing it is he that is bothering us. Not always so! Many times it is the Holy Spirit reminding us of unresolved conflicts that we need to address. Ignoring His voice will almost certainly guarantee that our prayers will be hindered. Have your prayers been heard lately?

Now, let us be advised that the forgiveness process will not be easy. Satan will certainly not sleep while you unleash this unstoppable power of forgiveness. He will fill your heart with fear that you will not succeed. Certainly also, as you begin the process of forgiveness, things may take a turn for the worse as the offender raises all sorts of denials and objections. I advise you to pray and fast during this time for Satan is at work and this type goes not out but through prayer and fasting.

## **The Danger of Not Forgiving**

Unforgiveness is a very dangerous sin. The scripture repeatedly admonishes us of the dire consequences that can result from not extending forgiveness to our offenders. For example, Jesus gave this parable saying:

Matt. 18: 21-35. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, who would take account of his servants. And when he had begun the reckoning, one was brought unto him, who owed him ten thousand talents. But since he had nothing to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and released him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him a hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay you all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O you wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt, because you desired me: Should not you also have had compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you? And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all that was due unto him. **So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if you from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.**

The above parable reveals that unforgiveness is a sin punishable by the penalty for sins that we were once forgiven of. In other words, the old sins that were once forgiven are brought back against the person who

does not forgive and the tormentor, Satan, is given legal right to afflict him.

The Bible further reveals that sin, including unforgiveness, results in death.

Jas 1:13-15. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and **sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.**

Ro 6:23. **For the wages of sin is death;** but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All of us live in constant need of God's forgiveness because we sin daily, whether in thought, word, or deed, by commission or omission. But the Bible assures us that we can block our own forgiveness if we do not forgive others. This is because the divine law of sowing and reaping come into effect, meaning, if we do not sow forgiveness we cannot reap forgiveness. In fact, if we sow unforgiveness, we reap unforgiveness.

Ga 6:7-8. **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.** For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Mr 11:25-26. And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any: that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**

Unwillingness to forgive implies that the injured person may be harboring anger and resentment against the offender. The keeping of unresolved negative emotions can usually impair one's social, mental and physical health. There exists a body of scientific evidence attesting to the fact that unforgiveness can result in mental and physical sicknesses and diseases. Thus, it is in the interest of the injured person to forgive so as to avoid damage to their health or to get healing from any ill effect of the sin of unforgiveness.

## **The Sin of Unforgiveness**

Whenever an offence occurs and is not forgiven, both the offender and offended are affected negatively. The offender may suffer from guilt, shame, fear, and a loss of peace and fellowship with God and

man. The offended may suffer from hurt feelings, anger, resentment, and hatred, etc, that may escalate into revenge, malice, bitterness, and a loss of fellowship with God and man. Each of these feelings and emotions in both the offender and offended if not positively resolved, will most likely develop into an ongoing active condition that will negatively manifest in various ways both seen and unseen.

It is very likely that Satan will then take advantage of these unresolved issues, attach evil spirits to them, who will in turn mind them until either the offender or offended literally become characterized by these negative emotions. Have you ever seen a person whose face is constantly angry or mean looking? The emotion of their heart has eventually affected their personality and become fixed on their faces.

So urgent it is to quickly forgive giving no place to the devil that Jesus instructs us not to let the sun go down on our wrath. This is because unresolved conflicts given enough time will take root and grow into trees producing bad fruit. Unforgiveness therefore, make it possible for demonic possession to take place. People that are bitter, angry, malicious are controlled by evil spirits or their own spirit has turned evil.

Forgiveness breaks the power of sin and death. Where sins are forgiven, death has lost its power. Death operates through sicknesses and diseases for sickness and disease brings on death. If we sin and are not forgiven, we will get sick, contract diseases and die. But, if our sins are forgiven, then death has no grounds to claim us.

Forgiveness is the responsibility of the person that has been wronged. If you have been hurt or offended by anyone, their sin can only be forgiven if you forgive them. Only you have the power to forgive your offender. You also have an obligation to forgive because if you do not forgive, you yourself become a sinner. Unforgiveness is disobedience and disobedience is sin. The Bible also said, "If you do not forgive others, neither will God forgive you." If God is unable to forgive you, your sins begin to add up and accumulate. Think back to the first time someone offended you and you did not forgive them. From that time each sin you committed remained on your account. If you are not forgiven then death has power over you and you are vulnerable to sicknesses and diseases. This is why even Christians get sick and die prematurely. This may also be the reason why some people are not healed of their sicknesses.

The Bible says that sickness, diseases, death, etc. are the work of Satan. If we do not practice forgiveness, we give Satan opportunity and cooperate with him to destroy lives. When we hurt each other and do not repent and forgive, Satan uses the offence to torment and destroy both

the victim and the offender. Although Satan used the offender to cause the offence, it is the offended person through not forgiving that allows Satan to destroy.

In this light, it is not only the offender that needs to repent. The offended person will need to seek forgiveness for the sin of unforgiveness and the injury that has been caused by their lack of willingness to forgive. Is it not clearly evident that the person that causes offences in due time come to suffer many blows from the devil? Have we not all witnessed this fact? Do we not acknowledge our vindication and site it as evidence of our goodness when we see our enemies being afflicted? Did we not sometimes pray that God would vindicate us by avenging us against our offenders? Do we do well to rejoice as they are torn to pieces by the roaring lion? Is it not in our power to ask God to spare them? Is it the love of God working in us that keep us fixed in unforgiveness? Will not Satan immediately lose his ground to destroy if the offended person chooses to forgive?

The offended person must then be found to be guilty of being unmerciful, unkind, revengeful, unsparing, unloving, and unchristlike. Are not these sins against the body of Christ? Are they not also sins against the offender? Therefore, both the offender and the offended are caught in a trap of the adversary in which Satan has them warring against each other to one another's destruction. From hence come division, weakness and deadness.

To be reconciled to God, both the offender and offended will need to forgive each other. For emphasis, note: it is not only the offender that needs to repent; it is the offended person also, because, through his unforgiveness, he has enabled Satan to destroy his brother and divide the body of Christ. Do we remember Jesus' warning to those that do not from the heart forgive everyone his brother their trespasses? He said, the unforgiving shall be turned over to the tormentors to account for all their former debts. (Matt. 18:35).

Do you now understand why the church today is powerless against the kingdom of darkness? The unforgiving person or church actually is working in cooperation with the kingdom of darkness. Is this not why there are no healings, miracles, genuine salvations, and victory over death? Can you conceive of another excuse why you should not forgive one another? Will you through unforgiveness work against the kingdom of Christ? Beware!

For the sake of the grace of God, and that the suffering of Christ for us be not in vain, move offender, move offended, hurry...! Forgive one another and be reconciled.

If you have offended someone and have not asked for forgiveness, you are living in sin and Satan will destroy your life with sickness, problems, diseases, and death.

If you have been offended by someone and have not forgiven them, Satan will destroy your life with sickness, problems, diseases and death.

But if we forgive, we utterly defeat Satan and all the powers of darkness. So, onward Christian soldiers, to SALVATION, HEALING, DELIVERANCE, RESURRECTION, ONWARD TO VICTORY!!

## **The Grounds for Forgiveness**

There are several reasons why people, especially Christians must forgive. One ground for forgiveness is that the ministry of Jesus is one of forgiveness.

Lu 23:33-34. And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. **Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his clothing, and cast lots.

Throughout his ministry the work of Jesus demonstrated a linkage between sin and sickness. As Jesus forgave sins, miraculous healing and deliverances were achieved. The name given to Jesus was explained thus, "You shall call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sin." He saves from sin through his atoning work to forgive sin.

Another ground for forgiveness lies in the fact that we ourselves needed and received God's forgiveness whereby we were made free, thus as we had offended God and were forgiven, we owe the same to those who offend us.

Eph 4:32. And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.**

A further ground for forgiveness is that the Spirit of Christ lives in us, and if so be the case, He that is in us is still a forgiver, and desires to forgive others through us. If we forgive we are proving that Christ is in us.

Col 3:12-14. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, **and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do you.** And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

If we do not forgive we are denying Christ, or worst, rebelling against his mission and will. To a greater degree, we may be showing proof that Christ is not in us. Therefore, the most significant thing Christians can do as an evidence of true conversion is to seek to forgive every one that trespasses against them.

## **The Blessing of Forgiveness**

Forgiveness requires love, patience, mercy, and kindness and brings peace, healing, and deliverance, etc. Obviously, these character traits of godliness cannot exist in an unforgiving person. But at whatsoever moment a person decides to and begins to take steps to forgive, the fruit of the Spirit will come into manifestation. As forgiveness is extended, love will drive out hate, patience will overcome harshness, mercy will override faultfinding, and kindness will destroy meanness. As a result peace will replace war and the gift of healing will be ministered and both offender and offended will be delivered from the power of the devil and be free from all afflictions that had arisen from his invasion.

The following passages will bear out the blessedness, Christ likeness and reward of the person who forgives.

Matthew 5:9. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Pr 19:11. The discretion of a man delays his anger; and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

Pr 25:21-22 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink: ....., and the LORD shall reward you.

Mt 5:7. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

The keen observer may discern that offences serve the purpose of giving the offended person the opportunity to grow in godliness. God is love. And it would constitute an act of unconditional love for a person to forgive his enemy even as did God. God is merciful. Since the person that offends us is worthy of punishment, it would require a show of mercy to forgo the vengeance and instead offer leniency. Of course, love and mercy are gifts that when given under these conditions constitute an act of kindness.

Being put into a position of having to forgive repeatedly of course requires patience. Offering forgiveness in such a manner as is acceptable requires meekness, for one must subdue his right to carnal

appeasement. Offences therefore afford us the opportunity to manifest the divine qualities that are in Christ. Thus, we should not think it too hard to offer forgiveness since the offence works together for our good and may in fact be allowed by God as the means whereby we can conform to the image of His Son. Therefore the scriptures encourages:

Mt 5:10-12. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.

## The Ministry of Forgiveness

The Ministry of Jesus was a ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

2 Co 5:18-19. And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, that **God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;** and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Lu 4:14-19. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

As a result of the willingness of Jesus to forgive sins, we see that healing and deliverance was common place in his ministry. Before departing, Jesus said that the same ministry he had was to be continued by his disciples. Note the following paired scriptures indicating the continuance of Christ's life and work in us:

Jesus is the Light and declares us to be the light.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world.**

Mt 5:14. **You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Jesus did great works and said we would do great works also.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Jesus received all power and granted us power.

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

Ac 1:8. **But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come upon you:** and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus had power to forgive sins and gave us power to forgive sins.

Mt 9:2-7. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick, a paralytic, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the paralytic; Son, be of good cheer; your sins be forgiven you. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Why think you evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, Your sins be forgiven you; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that you may know that **the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins,** (then said he to the paralytic) Arise, take up your bed, and go unto your house. And he arose, and departed to his house.

John 20:22-23. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive you the Holy Spirit: **Whosoever's sins you remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever's sins you retain, they are retained.**

Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil and gave us commission to do the same.

1Jo 3:8 He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning. For this purpose **the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

Lu 10:19 Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

As such you can clearly see that our ministry and the ministry of Jesus are one and the same. Observe:

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: **as my Father has sent me, even so send I you.**

2 Co 5:20-21. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For he has made him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The verse in John 20:23 “Whosoever's sins you remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever's sins you retain, they are retained” is quite an extraordinary revelation. It indicates that Christ has delegated or given the power to forgive sin to man. If we take into consideration the Scripture which says, “Verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt 18:18), we will have a more complete understanding of the authority that God has delegated to man. That is, whoever we forgive on earth, God forgives them in heaven, and additionally, whoever we do not forgive on earth is not forgiven in heaven. Now this is appropriate since most of what we call sin is committed against each other.

We therefore can experience the power ministry in our life if we realize that it was His emphasis on forgiving sin that enabled Jesus to do his mighty works. The gifts of the Spirit: healings, miracles, faith, wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirit, prophecy, etc., are the proper equipment for ambassadors of reconciliation. This is the power available to us as ministers of the gospel that reconciles man to God through the forgiveness of sins.

## **Instructions in Forgiveness**

The scriptures give the following instructions with respect to forgiveness:

The people of God should not fight back.

Mt 5:39-41. But I say unto you, That you resist not evil: **but whosoever shall smite you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.** And if any man will sue you at the law, and take away your coat, let him have your cloak also. And whosoever shall compel you to go a mile, go with him two.

Ro 12:17-18. **Recompense to no man evil for evil.** Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men.

Love your enemies. We are obligated to love our offenders.

Mt 5:43-48. You have heard that it has been said, You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who spitefully use you, and persecute you;** That you may be the children of your Father who is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the

just and on the unjust. For if you love them who love you, what rewards have you? Do not even the tax collectors the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you more than others? Do not even the tax collectors so? Be you therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.

Return blessing upon those that curse you.

Ro 12:14. **Bless them who persecute you: bless, and curse not.**

Revenge belongs to God, not to us.

Ro 12:19-20. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord. **Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him drink:** for in so doing you shall heap coals of fire on his head.

There is no limit to the number of times we should be able to forgive our offenders.

Lu 17:3-4. Take heed to yourselves: If your brother trespasses against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. **And if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turns again to you, saying, I repent; you shall forgive him.**

## **The Power of Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is the only way to positively deal with offences. Satan's powers to afflict with sickness, diseases, death, etc., are all based on the existence of sin.

1Co 15:56. The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

If sin is eliminated then the source of Satan's power is ended. Once a sin has been committed there is no way to undo it. So it can only be gotten rid of by killing the sinner.

Heb 9:22. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**

No one ever puts a dead criminal on trial. The anger of the offended is appeased if the offender dies. This situation however would necessitate the death of every one, for all have sinned. The only alternative therefore for dealing with sin, short of killing the offender is to forgive the offence.

How easily then we can gain victory over Satan and all his power? God saved us from Satan's power by forgiving our sins. We also can overcome Satan's power by forgiving one another's offences. Even

greater, we can preach the forgiveness of sin to the unsaved and witness the manifestation of deliverance from the power of sickness, problems, disease, and death.

The forgiving of sin was the key to Jesus' power ministry. By this emphasis, no power of Satan could resist Jesus' command. We also can walk in that power if we choose to become ministers of forgiveness.

Mark 16:15-17. And he said unto them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be condemned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

The Gospel of Jesus is a gospel of repentance from sin. Its focal point is redemption from the power of sin. Sin is overcome by forgiving it. If we forgive we are exercising the grace that draws upon the power of God. In fact, the gifts of the spirit are intended for the sole purpose of affecting the work of redemption. Further, the signs are ordained to follow as an indication that forgiveness of sin is taking place.

If we do not forgive, we forfeit our spiritual power and can do nothing against Satan. In fact, God's power cannot manifest itself in us for we by not forgiving are cooperating with Satan's power.

## **The Victory of Forgiveness**

We are in the midst of warfare against the kingdom of darkness wherein our true enemy is not each other; it is in fact the devil.

Eph 6:12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places.

But we run the risk of being manipulated by the devil and turned against each other. The enemy is using us to do his dirty work. The state of the church today is dire. The body is divided against itself and seemingly on the verge of defeat. This however shall not happen, for God has equipped us with the power and promise that we are more than conquerors. For:

1Co 10:13. There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Mt 16:18-19. And I say also unto you, That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Lu 10:19. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

When we sin one against the other and do not forgive, Satan is afforded the right to afflict us with problems, sickness, diseases, and death. But where the sin is forgiven Satan has no such opportunity to operate. We are praying for a mighty revival in these end times. But by our own witness the world today is filled with offences such as never before. But for the mercy of God we all would be ripe for destruction like as in the days of Noah.

The Bible says however, “Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (Rom. 5:20) The only grace that can abound to overcome sin is forgiveness. Therefore, we shall begin to get the victory over the adversary as we forgive one another.

Eph 4:31-32. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

Death reigns because of sin. (The sting of death is sin 1 Cor. 15:56.). We will overcome our last enemy, namely death, by removing its venom, sin. Sin is only treatable by forgiveness. This is the only remedy that both God and man have to overcome sin and death. Let us therefore usher in the great revival of the end time by unleashing an avalanche of forgiveness, which will bring salvation, healing, deliverance, and resurrection of the dead.

## **Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

The life of Jesus Christ is famous due to the miracles he did, the things he taught and the purpose for which he came. The key to the powerful life of Jesus was that he came to forgive sins. Sin is the cause of death. Death is preceded by sickness and diseases. If there was no sin, there would be no sickness, disease, or death. Therefore, the means by which we may obtain victory over death, receive healing, and obtain

deliverance from sicknesses and diseases is to get rid of sin. Sin is gotten rid of by forgiveness. When sins are forgiven, Satan loses his power to cause sickness, diseases and death. As Jesus went about declaring the gospel of mercy and forgiveness of sins, many people who believed the gospel were healed and delivered and some were resurrected from the dead.

Before Jesus left he said He gives the same power to mankind to heal and deliver. Today we do not see the power of Jesus being demonstrated much in the world. This is due to the fact that there is not an emphasis in our lives on forgiveness. We are praying for revival, but there can be no revival unless there is forgiveness. For revival has to do with the life, power, and purpose of Jesus Christ coming alive in the lives of the people of the world. The life of Jesus is a life of forgiveness. The blood was shed for the remission of sin.

If you are an offended person or an offender, then I encourage you to use this letter as a means of reconciliation. You may copy and send it to your enemy to begin the process of forgiveness and reconciliation. Below are form letters you can adopt to begin the process.

RE: A Letter asking for forgiveness.

Dear

I am writing this letter to you because I believe I wronged you and need to ask for your forgiveness. I believe I offended you in the following way:

(Fill in the details of the offence here)

In the name of Jesus Christ and by the grace of God the Father I declare to you that I am sorry for the damage I have done you and beg you to forgive me. I pray that God will release you from any pain or hurt that Satan may have dealt you using me as his instrument. May you be delivered from any torment of body, soul or spirit. May God grant you peace and revival of your spirit unto eternal life.

If you are willing to extend forgiveness to me, I ask you to reply to this letter so that we can take further steps if possible, toward reconciliation.

Sincerely Yours,

RE: A Letter extending forgiveness.

Dear

I am writing this letter to you because I need to forgive you for the wrong you did to me. I believe you offended me in the following way:

(Fill in details of offences here)

In the name of Jesus Christ and by the mercy of God the Father, I desire to forgive you for the damage you did to me and release you from any guilt or shame. I pray that God will save you from any attack of Satan and deliver you from any torment of body, soul or spirit due to sickness or diseases.

I also ask you to forgive me for not seeking to forgive you sooner. You may have suffered because of my negligence.

If you are willing to forgive me and be forgiven by me, I ask you to reply to this letter so that we can take further steps toward reconciliation. May God grant you peace and revival of your spirit unto eternal life.

Sincerely Yours,

### **The Act of Reconciliation**

I recommend that after you have agreed to forgive and reconcile, that, if at all possible, you go to the house of God together so that a man of God can pray for you and confirm your victory over Satan.

When the reconciling parties come together to forgive, the following procedure is recommended. First, a statement of purpose should be made as to the reason for the meeting, such as, "We are here to attempt the reconciliation of so and so". Further, the offended person should express their willingness to forgive if the offender repents and asks for forgiveness. Also the offender should express their willingness to accept forgiveness if it is offered. If these things are agreed to and expressed, then, prayers should be said at this point invoking the spirit of peace, etc, followed by both parties saying, Amen.

If there was in fact an offence, that is, if the offender had already acknowledged guilt, it would be best to commence the confrontation by

having the offender make a detailed confession of what they did wrong and expressing sorrow for the hurt caused to the offended person.

If on the other hand, there is still confusion as to why offence was taken, then the offended person should at this point speak directly to the offender stating in detail the nature of the offence and how they were hurt by it. After this the accused must reply to explain any misunderstanding or else to confess and accept responsibility for the offence.

If there is reason for the accused to repent, they must speak directly to the offended person; first, confessing in detail the offence, then expressing sorrow for their action, and lastly, asking for forgiveness.

At this point the offended person should express whether they were satisfied with the apology and if so, should express whether they accept the person's repentance and follow by stating that they forgive the offender. Once done, the offender should state that they accept forgiveness and express thanks to the offended.

If the act of reconciliation is being mediated by a pastor or other spiritually qualified person, they should now move to agree with the act of reconciliation. This is done by firstly, bringing the reconciling parties in prayer before the throne of God, declaring the scriptural basis for reconciliation and the promises of God for forgiveness. After this, the pastor should speak to the offender and offended declaring that the offence has been forgiven on earth and in heaven. Lastly, if any of the parties are Christians, the pastor should assure them of their holy standing as children of God. The declaring that the sin has been forgiven is known as absolution.

I mean here that this act of reconciliation is the very thing that godliness is about. Both offender and offended have performed an act that is highly pleasing to God and has demonstrated that the power of the Holy Spirit is present with us all to manifest the spirit of Jesus Christ.

It should be remembered that the offended person may be guilty of the sin of unforgiveness. This can be determined by finding out whether they had previously refused to forgive the offender or if they failed to offer forgiveness having had the opportunity. If this is so, the above procedure should be followed giving the offended person the opportunity to repent also.

If the reconciled persons are both Christians, communion may be served to them, otherwise, I encourage that all in attendance partake of a meal together as these acts will greatly aid the healing process.

If necessary, further follow up should be made to ensure the development of a healthy relationship or that the injured party is progressing toward complete wholeness.

Grace, mercy, peace, love, and forgiveness now abound in us all to the glory of God and the reviving of the body of Christ.

Please share this document with someone else and encourage them to reconcile.