



Rise Ministry, Inc.

www.RiseMinistry.Org

(515)739-1211 Pin:730575

Thursday Night Bible Study Call 8:00 – 8:45 p.m

Guest Speaker: Davie White

HAVING THE HEART OF FORGIVENESS: RIDDING THE CANCER OUT OF YOUR SPIRIT

Goal:

1. To inform participants about God's meaning of forgiveness, and why forgiveness is important in the life of a Christian
2. To inform participants about God's meaning of revenge and why it is important to not avenge ourselves

Scriptures:

1st John 4:20

Whoever claims to love God and hates his brother, is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he can see, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Lesson/Speech

Beloved, today, I'm going to teach on the topic of forgiveness. This is an area I've struggled with for years, decades, even. As a child, I grew up without my natural mother because she died when I was 3 going on 4. I was a child who held things in until they boiled over in an uncontrollable anger. I'd permit my anger to get the better of me, and had a hardened heart towards those I felt offended by. I justified my reason for being unforgiving of them, and that justification felt like cancer in my spirit. I couldn't grow spiritually, beyond a certain point. Even worse, the more I found reason to be unforgiving, the more the universe delivered me more unjust, undeserved offense, and my list of people whom I didn't forgive, couldn't forgive, had the right not to forgive grew longer and longer as the years went by.



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It got to the point that I was so infected with unforgiveness, it spread like a cancer in my spirit. I became the living epitome of Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient. I was allowed to be as a lawless individual, one without God. As if God was not seeing everything I'd done in the depths of my heart, or bowels of my soul.

Nonetheless, God's love for me continued to minister to my heart. He'd repeat to me, daily. Multiple times, daily, Ephesians 4:26, Be angry, but sin not. Davie, my love, do not permit the sun to go down upon your wrath. Not only did the sun go down upon my wrath, but many, many moons did as well.

So, I disobediently forgave in my own way. Half-heatedly. In a I'll never forget kind of manner. In a mmmm, you ain't gone never catch me out there again kind of manner. I had an ATTITUDE about forgiveness. But, boy was I so very mistaken. I missed the mark! By a land slide

See beloved, the world's definition of forgiveness is remarkably different from that which the Bible describes. If you were to randomly ask someone what forgiveness meant, they might say, it's an act of forgiving someone of something, having a willingness to forgive someone from something that they've done or said to you or the voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in ATTITUDE or feelings in which an offense was inflicted upon them. It might even be a willingness to let go of negative emotions toward someone such as vengeance. It is not condoning the offense or act, but the person who forgives may gain the ability to even wish the offender well. For the person who was offended it could be giving up the right to hurt those who have hurt you. We often times say we'll forgive, and forget. But, can we really forget?

It is possible to forgive, but as humans, is it possible to forget? Not likely.

The Biblical Definition of Forgiveness is much broader, yet more comprehensive than the world believes. In Matthew 6:14, Jesus shows us what forgiveness really is: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly father will forgive you yours. The Greek word for forgive is "aphiemi" which means "to send away". You send away



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from ever being in the presence of either party. That means if my brother offends me, AND I forgive him, then I “send away” the offense from myself, and from him, forever, never to bring it up again.

You see, FORGIVENESS is a reciprocate! An ACT of doing one thing in exchange for the same thing in return! In tax terms, I call that a Section 1031 Exchange! Exchanging Like Kind Asset for a Like Kind Asset.

You get out of it what you put into it. If you put nothing into it, you can get nothing out of it. Therefore, God is unable to forgive you your sins, you’re unable to get to know god for lack of obedience, thus he’s unable to know that you really do love him, and can only identify you as a liar.

I had to work on changing my ways.

Therefore, I had to apply 1st John 1:9 in my life in a mighty way. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The other day, maybe 3 or 4 days ago. I was in the livingroom, and my aunt began to talk to me. She was quite firm, but I yielded. She said, Davie, it is imperative that you forgive me with all of your heart. It is also important that you KNOW that you know that you know that I love you! AND I did one hell of a job raising you! And so, I started talking to her. I started saying, you know, I remember growing up, and we would be outside, and you would yell, Harry, Ondre, Nikki, Davie, Malcolm get upstairs now. And we had to be up before that lightpost went dark. I remember you used to say, you gotta take them and beat them and kick them, and the bigger they come the harder they fall. I remember you used to teach us how to fight. Then you would say, What’s wrong with you? Don’t you know you could be whatever you want to be? And I had such a talk with her. To the point where my daughter came into the livingroom and asked me, Mommy who are you talking to. I said, I’m talking to my mother. The one who raised me. And 3 days later, Michelle and Barack arrived at my door. I could not tell you how much I probably would not have gotten that present had I not been obedient at that very moment.

Which makes me smile because Psalm 103:10-14 Tells us that God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.



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Yesterday, my son, my daughter and I were at Outback eating, and my son began telling us a story that he found to be quite funny. He told us that the boy who slapped him in the back of his neck in 6th grade, which was 3 years ago, just got slapped in the back of his neck, and I was dying laughing, and I said to him, now you see how I felt!

So, I asked him, didn't you get him back though? He said yeah, in 7th grade, I got him back really good.

I then asked him, at what point in your heart do you forgive him?

Nonetheless, he wasn't in the mood to tell us anymore jokes during dinner.

Which brings me to:

Romans 12:19 (King James Version) Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

When someone offends us, we naturally feel like we want revenge. And we can think of many ways, on how we're going to get that person back. And most likely, we wanna get them **WORSE** than they got us!

However, Romans 8:37 says: No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us

If someone offends us, we feel like we cannot forgive them, but God says, we're more than Conquerors. God says Love those who spitefully use you. Love those who hate you. That's a tough pill to swallow. But we ought to thank those who hurt us, as well as forgive them. Because god says in 1st Corinthians 10:13: ³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; **he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear**. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.



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So, if you feel like you cannot forgive, god has shown you a way that you can forgive, you can conquer those whom have offended you, and you were never tempted beyond you ability to bear. He gave you a test that he knew you had the ability to pass, and if not he gave you an escape route so you can endure.

But, if you decide to take revenge. Understand this much. You cannot take that which does not belong to you. Revenge is god's! Just like the tree filled with the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, it was not theirs to take. Although it is accessible, it is not permissible. Revenge doesn't belong to us. It belongs to god, and if we take revenge we are thieves, and stealers. And Heaven then becomes inaccessible to us.

God's definition of revenge is different from man. He corrects, reproofs, causes us to repent of our ways, and puts things into their proper prospective. In other words, if god's revenge is to turn your enemy into your friend, has he not gotten rid of your enemy? Yes, but if he were to kill your enemy, or harm your enemy which you see fit to do, what lesson will your offender really learn? Do you know whether god loves the person who offended you? Answer is probably yes! He loves all of us. In 2nd Peter 3:9, god reveals such: **The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

So let's RISE to a higher calling in love and maturity