

To Be Free, “You Have to Let Go of the Past”

Have you been hurt or betrayed by someone you trusted, by someone you depended for support, for protection, or for your life? Chances are as we go through life, we will all come to that place where we experience a strong dose of what it feels like to be betrayed by someone we trusted. When this happens, we are usually filled with rage, pain, and unforgiveness; we find ourselves subconsciously repeating this simple phrase *“I will never forgive him/her”*. We have a tendency to justify this philosophy because we are the victim and we believe that revenge is the only thing that will bring us peace and ultimately bring a closure to our pain or rage.

The truth is seeking revenge will not ultimately take away our pain; revenge cannot give you the inner peace you are looking for. Revenge will only make things worse. Two wrongs cannot make things right. Seeking revenge will only place you in the same position, just like the one who hurt you in the first place. Revenge will create one more person in pain but will not create a healing process. One of the key generators of revenge is the spirit of unforgiveness. When we forgive those who hurt us, we are not actually setting them free or letting them get away with what they’ve done, as popular opinions will try to make you believe. The truth is, when we forgive, we are actually setting ourselves free from the bondage of unforgiveness. The spirit of unforgiveness is like cancer; it eats you up alive inside-out; it consumes your entire being and holds you back from moving forward with your life. The spirit of unforgiveness holds you hostage, it prevents you from looking into the future; it permanently keeps you in the past.

Life is all about looking forward to the future and embracing the blessings that God has designed for you; it explains why from God’s creative library, we all grow both naturally and supernaturally (spiritually). You can’t make your life all about the past; unforgiveness will trap you in the past with no way to move forward. In the Bible, Joseph knew the Language of Heaven and how to apply the principles of moving forward into the future to embrace the blessings of God. It explains why he did not hesitate to forgive his brothers who sold him into slavery. *“Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, ‘What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?’ So they approached Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, ‘We are here as your slaves.’ But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.’ In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.”* Genesis 50:15-21. As Christians, we have been falsely programmed to believe that when we go through painful experiences in life, we should conclude that Satan is attacking us. But if the experience is a good one, then God is obviously blessing us. This is a false doctrine. God’s priority in our lives is to enrich our soul and bring us to that place where we can successfully enter His kingdom through His son Jesus Christ. Sometimes, in the process of accomplishing this task, we will have to go through some pain, hurt, and challenges in life. Jesus had to go through some physical and emotional pain on the cross for our sins.

If we don't know how to forgive, how then can we boldly come to God each day in prayer and ask Him to forgive us. Jesus calls us to forgive, no matter what the circumstances look like. From a Biblical perspective, forgiveness is not a choice; it is a commandment. We have to learn to forgive not because the offender asked for it' but because it is our duty to do so in order to be like our Savior Jesus Christ. *"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours."* Matthew 6:15. Our job is to obey the commandments passed down to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."* John 14:15.

God bless you Jesus Loves you very much!

