

The Miraculous

Power of

Forgiveness

Frank Gaydos

Chapter One

Power

Barb received Christ a couple of years before she met and married Fred. About a year after Fred and Barb got married the fighting started. Fred became verbally abusive and Barb was always confronting him in word battles because she felt she had a right to stand up for herself and be treated with respect. Barb said that the peace, love, and joy she felt when she first received Christ gave way to constant feelings of inward pressure, pain, and turmoil because of her marriage. She was married for ten years and was on the verge of a divorce when she attended one of our seminars on the power of forgiveness.

During the seminar Barb noticed that the feelings of the Lord's peace, love, and joy began to return and just a few months after applying forgiveness the way she learned it in the seminar Barb's marriage completely turned around.

Jim recently came to Christ, but after only six months the feelings of the Lord's peace, love, and joy were replaced with feelings of condemnation. Jim felt that he just could not live up to the righteousness God expected of him. Also, Jim works in the telephone complaint department of a major corporation. He described his work life as a daily exercise of stress and anxiety with an office atmosphere of constant tension between co-workers. Jim's stress at work combined with his feelings of condemnation was destroying his family life, so he attended one of our seminars on the power of forgiveness.

During the seminar Jim felt the peace, love, and joy of the Lord return to his mind and emotions. When Jim applied forgiveness, the way he learned it in our seminar, he was amazed at the powerful effects it had on his family life, his customers, and the office atmosphere at work.

Margaret was a young high school teacher with a problem; two boys in her class enjoyed giving her a difficult time everyday. She tried reasoning with the boys, she tried getting the principal involved, she tried calling their parents, but nothing worked. Margaret was getting so frustrate that she thought about quitting her job. Instead, she attended one of our seminars on the power of forgiveness.

The next week in school the two boys started being difficult as usual. Only this time Margaret applied what she learned in our seminar and she was amazed at how quickly and effortlessly the boys' attitudes and behavior turned around. With the power of forgiveness Margaret was able to accomplish in less than a week what she would not have been able to do all year.

Jay was ten years old when he told his mother that he wanted to kill himself. Everyday in school four boys were relentlessly teasing him. They would wait for Jay to get off the bus and on his way into the school building they would blast him with derogatory remarks about his weight. Jay's parents attended one of our seminars on the power of forgiveness and asked if I would talk to their son.

When Jay went to school the next day the boys were waiting for him to get off the bus, so they could torment him, but this time Jay applied what he learned about forgiveness as he walked past the boys and before he got to the entrance of the school building Jay was felling strong, confident, and joyful. This scene repeated itself for the next three days and on the fourth day the boys were no longer waiting for Jay to get off the bus; a few days later the four boys and Jay became friends and remained friends throughout their High School years.

We will return to these stories and more like them and fill in all the details later in this book; but for now I would like to share with you the events in my life that lead me to understand the miraculous power of forgiveness.

I was eighteen years old in 1975 and attending the University of West Virginia on a football scholarship. In the summer of 1976 I took a job as a security guard and worked the graveyard shift; which is eleven at night until six in the morning. A Charismatic Baptist minister was also hired for that same shift. For some reason, I started reading the Bible during those long lonely night hours. One night the minister noticed what I was reading and asked if I was baptized with the Holy Spirit. I was raised in the Presbyterian Church, and at fifteen years old I answered an alter call to received Jesus as my Savior, but I had never heard of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Receiving the Spirit sounded like a good idea; after all I thought, "He is a member of the Trinity". So I allowed the minister to pray for me. As he prayed I "felt" an-unction to speak strange sounding words, words that I had never heard before. After the prayer, the minister told me I had received the Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues.

That night on rounds, checking doors and locks, I felt different, as if everything were new. I had a feeling of Christ in my inner being; a kind of awareness of the Lord's presence in my mind and emotions.

In one moment of time it seemed as if I had come to know the Lord. I was full of a type of peace and joy that I could only describe as Christ in me. I also felt a new love for God and for people. It was Christ's love for God and His love for others abiding in me. I also had real power over all thoughts and desires of sin. All I had to do to get rid of sinful thoughts and desires was to slightly resist them and they would instantly leave my mind and emotions.

In those days Jesus was not a theology, a psychology, a philosophy of life, or a doctrine to me. He was a real person whose life I could feel inside of my own mind and emotions. I was so excited about this new life that I talked about Jesus to everyone all of the time but it was irritating to most people especially my family.

At the end of that summer I did not return to West Virginia University. Instead I went to an Assembly of God Bible school in Pennsylvania and studied to become a minister.

Now, before I go on with my story, it is important to understand the spiritual climate of western Pennsylvania in the mid nineteen-seventies. During this time western Pennsylvania was in a time of charismatic renewal. Some mainline churches, and some Catholic masses, were turning away from traditional services in favor of experiencing the presence of the Lord in worship with the gifts of the Spirit. Assembly of God churches and independent Pentecostal churches were springing up everywhere.

The Bible school I attended was part of the mid-seventies charismatic renewal that swept Western Pennsylvania. We were deeply involved in the gifts of the Spirit and I did everything my teachers told me to do to serve and please God. Yet even under these super spiritual conditions I lost the sense of Christ in me, I lost the peace, love, and joy of the Lord and returned to all of my old sins. I truly knew what the Apostle Paul meant when he said I don't understand myself the good I want to do I do not do no the evil I do not want to do this I keep on doing. What a miserable man I am.

As much as I tried I just could not live up to the righteousness that I thought God expected. I truly knew what the apostle Paul meant when he said, "I don't understand myself, the good I want to do, I do not do, no the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing. What a miserable man I am." *Romans 7:14-25*

After two years I left Bible school and married my fiancé, who is my wife to this day. We decided to go to Nyack New York and attend Nyack College. At that time Nyack College was the main school of ministry for the Christian and Missionary Alliance church; and I thought that seminary professors would surely be able to show me the way back to the inner presence of Christ with His peace, love, joy, and power over sin.

However after our first year at Nyack it was obvious that I was just learning more theology about God and it was also obvious that my professors could not show me the way back to the Lord's presence in my inner man.

So my wife and I left Nyack, went back to Pennsylvania, and entered the business world. For the next twenty five years I read and studied everything I could find on faith, the Holy Spirit, and the inner experience of Christ.

I tried every form of gospel that was out there with the hope of returning to my original experience. I tried the faith message, the prosperity message, the eternal security message, and many others. But not one of them had the ability to get me back to the inner experience of Christ I had when I was first born again.

In some religious circles they call the initial stages of the born again experience, “the honey-moon stage”. To me, that is just wrong. I could never buy that. God does not have a honey-moon stage. The initial experience of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit that it comes with is supposed to be permanent. But how!!!

In Bible school we were taught to marry the person that God told us to marry; and that is just what my wife and I did. I felt that God told me to marry her and she felt that God told her to marry me. The morning after our wedding night the daily fighting started and lasted for over fifteen years.

My wife and I married because of what we thought was Gods word to us. Neither one of us had a romantic attraction to one another but we did have a spiritual connection which was the most important thing to us. We could talk about the Lord for hours on end. We confused our children greatly, I am sure, because after each knock down drag out fight we would return to talking about the Lord. Then we would fight again. My wife and I stayed together during the bad years because of the kids. Kids are a great reason to stay together.

One day, a few years into our marriage, my wife asked, if I would go on a trip with her to visit her best friend’s mother. My wife’s best friend at the time was a pastor’s wife named Cindy, her mothers name was Nancy. I had heard my wife and Cindy talking about Nancy and what an extraordinary Christian woman she was; they said she had the love of God in her, so I agreed to go and see for myself.

It was a few days after Christmas when we drove up to see Nancy. My wife and I were fighting as usual. But this fight was even more intense than normal and I was white hot with anger. By the time we got there I was downright hateful. I had never elevated to this kind of anger in all my life. The feelings were absolutely electric like, in a very hateful way and it showed all over my face. I was definitely going to ruin the day for everyone or so I thought.

When we arrived at Nancy’s house I kind of hid out in the TV room and watched a movie with the kids. Even though I wasn’t saying anything, intense anger was flowing from me in a silent way and I could tell that everybody noticed.

Nancy was about sixty years old at the time and it was obvious that she lived in the love of God. Christ could clearly be seen in her face. She was certainly a real Christian.

And then it happened.

Nancy walked over to me, handed me an ice scrapper, and said “Merry Christmas”. At that moment all the hate, anger, and resentment drained out of my soul and was replaced with a feeling of peace. I was astonished at what just happened and I wondered what kind of power is this.

When I questioned Cindy about her mother all she could tell me was that she was full of Gods love. My question was how did she get that way and if that is the power of Gods love can we all have it and can it be taught?

A few days after we met Nancy my wife and I were fighting again and I lost the peace that she had imparted to me through Gods love. Even though I lost the feeling of peace and returned to my usual state of inward pain and turmoil I never forgot the day we visited Nancy. That day lived in my mind kind of haunting me with the idea that God’s love can be permanent.

I own a carpet cleaning company, so I travel on the same roads servicing the same homes year after year, and I always eat lunch on the run. One of my favorite places to stop and pick up a quick bite is a privately own grocery store, that in my opinion, makes the best deli sandwiches in the world.

In those days I lived in a constant state of inward pain and misery with a low hum of anger that could erupt into rage at any given moment. I used food and movies as escape mechanisms to get away from the inner turmoil, at least for a moment; needless to say I ate a lot of food and watched a lot of movies.

One day I stopped at my favorite grocery store for a sandwich and I noticed a new employee bagging groceries, he was about seventy years old and his name was Harold. He had the same look of Christ in his face that I saw in Nancy about a year earlier. That day, on a scale of one to ten, my inner pain and misery index was around four, and my constant feelings of anger were on low hum. So, for me, that was a good mood. When I went to the register to pay for my sandwich Harold came over to bag it, and with a smile he said, have a good day, and it happened again. At that moment all the feelings of pain and the low hum of anger drained out of my soul and was replaced with a feeling of peace.

After that incident, for months, I kept thinking about Nancy and Harold. I kept pondering in my mind about this silent power they both had that brought peace to my soul with a

simple spoken word of social politeness. How could “Merry Christmas” and “Have a Good Day” have so much power?

A few months after I noticed Harold at the grocery store he called my office to have his carpets cleaned. I had two carpet cleaning trucks working at that time, but I was definitely going to do Harold’s job myself. Before I arrived at Harold’s house I decided to ask him to tell me his life’s story. I knew somewhere in his story would be the key that unlocked the mystery of how he was able to bring peace to my soul with just one word of social politeness.

I arrived at Harold’s house at eight o’ clock in the morning on the day of his appointment. As I was cleaning his carpets I said to him “Harold you are no doubt a Christian”. He smiled and with a grin that went from ear to ear he said “that I am Frank”. I then told Harold that I noticed his Christ like countenance and his love for people at the grocery store. I also told Harold that I was curious as to how he got that way and asked if he could tell me his story.

I did not expect to hear the story that I was about to hear. I expected to hear a pristine story of someone who was raised by a loving father and mother; maybe a story of a young man who had attended the best Christian schools and was some kind of minister. Instead I heard the following story which confused me even more.

Harold was born and raised, “in the hood”. He was the product of a broken home and he was raised by his mother and grandmother. Harold escaped, “the hood”, as he put it, at eighteen years old by way of joining the Army after graduation and He served in the Korea. After the war Harold got a job at the steel mill and bought a house in the middle class neighborhood of his town. He then fell in love with a girl from the hood named Kerry. After only three months of dating, Harold wanted to marry Kerry, so he asked her mother for her hand in marriage. Kerry’s mother told Harold that she could not give him her consent to marry, because her daughter was the most evil girl that she ever knew. Thinking that Kerry’s mother just did not want to lose her daughter to marriage Harold married her anyway.

Things went well for Harold and Kerry during the first year of their marriage. They lived in a middle class neighborhood, Harold got a promotion at work, and they had a baby boy. About six months after the baby was born Kerry began drinking, doing drugs, and staying out late. A year after the baby was born Kerry got pregnant to another man.

Harold was devastated and sought the council of His pastor. The pastor told Harold that he would either have to get out of the marriage, or he would have to forgive Keyara and raise the other mans child as his own. Harold’s biggest concern at that moment was his own son. He did not want his son to be raised in the hood; he wanted his son to get an

education, and to have a good start in life. He wanted more for his son than he had for himself, and to Harold, that meant that his son needed two parents. So, Harold chose to forgive his wife.

Nine months later Kerry had another baby boy. Harold accepted, loved, and raised the other mans child as his own. Harold told me that after awhile there was no difference between His natural son and the other mans son. He loved them both equally.

Through the years Kerry vacillated between the good life and the life of alcohol and drugs. Harold wanted his sons to love their mother so he never talked negatively about her to the boys, and during their growing years neither one of them knew that one of them had a different birth father. Harold told me that it was up to Kerry to tell the boys that one of them had different birth father other than Him.

Kerry and Harold remained married for thirty five years until she passed away from a drug related illness. Harold's sons both graduated from college, one is a lawyer, and the other one is an engineer. Both are happily married with children. Harold is the most contented man I have ever met; his face shines with the radiance of Christ, and every day is a joy to him and he is a joy to others.

I left Harold's house that day kind of somber as if I was in a deep state of contemplation without words. I wondered, how could this be, how could a man be so full of Gods love when his life was such a wreck. It obviously had something to do with forgiveness that was a no brainier, but what kind of forgiveness. I wondered what kind of forgiveness it was that produced real feelings of Gods love and the radiance of Christ on Harold's face.

One day, I was driving down the road thinking about Harold's story, when an idea about forgiveness came to mind. Could it be that Harold unconditionally forgave his wife, and could this type of forgiveness be the reason why Harold felt God's love so strongly that it showed up as the radiance of Christ in his face?

After this thought came to mind I had a tremendous desire to thoroughly understand forgiveness. Is it possible that as a body of believers we really don't understand forgiveness or its power? Is there more to the cross and forgiveness than what we have traditionally been taught?

As I began to study forgiveness in the scriptures I ran straight into Paul's gospel. I understood from Bible school and seminary college days that Paul was given a revelation from Jesus on how he was to teach the gospel to the gentile nations.

According to Paul righteousness in the New Covenant is God's love given to us by the Holy Spirit. God's love in us by the Spirit naturally fulfills all the moral aspects of God's

law. When you are experiencing God's love you will not want to kill, steal, or commit adultery. When you are experiencing God's love you will naturally be patient, kind, self controlled, and so on.

Now, the Spirit of God fills our minds and emotions with God's love when we first come to Christ and He keeps us full of God's love as we continue in Christ by walking in forgiveness. If we do not walk in forgiveness or we don't know how to walk forgiveness after we have come to Christ then we quench the power of the Spirit in us and we return to our old sins.

In his writings, Paul uses the word grace to describe the type of forgiveness that Jesus provided for us through the cross. When I received the Spirit I felt God's love in my mind and emotions but, I didn't know how to walk in grace, so I quenched the Spirit and returned to my old sins.

When I learned the truth about the forgiveness of God in Christ and applied the grace of God to my own life and passed it on to others, the peace, love, and joy of the Lord returned to my mind and emotions and I also regained power over sinful thoughts and desires.

In this writing I focus only on the forgiveness aspect of the cross. There are other aspects of the cross, according to Paul's gospel, but I do not cover them in this writing. For a complete understanding of the gospel in its original form as it went to the gentile nations from Paul get my book called, *The Gospel That Works*.

Over the years I have met a lot of Christians who have had an experience in the Lord like I had; where they came to Christ and initially experienced the Lords peace, love, joy, and power over sin only to lose it a few months later. In every case when they believed in and applied forgiveness, as outlined in this book, they to returned to the peace, love, and joy of the Lord with real power over sinful thoughts and desires.

The following chapter may be a way of looking at forgiveness other than what you have traditionally been taught; it is also the only way to believe in forgiveness that activates or reactivates the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions and in the circumstances of your life.

Chapter Two

New Covenant Forgiveness

In the book of Romans chapter four Paul talks about being justification through faith; he picks psalms thirty two verses one and two to describe the type of forgiveness that we have through Christ which causes us to be justified in the sight of God.

“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him”. *Romans 4:7, 8 from Psalms 32:1, 2*

In the book of Hebrews chapter eight Paul quotes Jeremiah who prophesies about the kind of forgiveness that believers will have in the New Covenant.

Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” *Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:8-10 and verse 12*

Notice in these scriptures that the New Covenant is “**not**” like the Old Covenant. In the Old Covenant God remembers sin, He keeps account of sin and that is why yearly sacrifices had to be made. In the New Covenant because of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus, God is merciful to our unrighteousness; He remembers our sins and lawless deeds no more. He does not count our sins against us.

In the book of Colossians Paul tells us that Jesus forgave “**all**” of our sins. Every Pharisee and teacher of the law under the Old Covenant knew that animal sacrifices covered only past sins. Under the New Covenant “**all**” of our sins are forgiven. The word “**all**” when it is connected to forgiveness in the scriptures can only mean that “**all**” of our sins are forgiven as in past, present, and future. *Colossians 2:13*

Through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus on the cross you have been forgiven of “**all**” your sins, which means, forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in God’s mind. Because of the cross in God’s mind you are already forgiven even if you sin; because of the cross God is merciful to our unrighteousness; He remembers our sins and lawless deeds no more. He does not count our sins against us.

Jesus on the cross and Stephen the first martyr are perfect examples of New Covenant forgiveness.

On the cross Jesus forgave His persecutors as they were sinning against Him. Stephen, the first recorded New Covenant martyr, also forgave his persecutors as they were sinning against him.

Once again for emphasis: God, through the sacrifice of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus has forgiven you of **“all”** your sins past, present, and future. In Gods mind because of the cross forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion; He does not count your sins against you, He is merciful toward your unrighteousness, and your sins and lawless deeds He remembers no more.

Now, at this point, the idea will arise that this way of belief in forgiveness is a license to sin. On the contrary, believing that **“all”** of your sins are forgiven and passing that kind of forgiveness on to others will activate the Spirit of God’s love in your mind and emotions and you will immediately sin less not more.

After you received Christ instead of being taught that **“all”** of your sins have been forgiven you were probably taught that you had to keep asking God for forgiveness; as if he is holding your sins against you until you ask for more forgiveness

Asking for forgiveness is not part of the Old Covenant nor is it part of the New Covenant.

In the Old Covenant there is no such thing as asking God for forgiveness; there was confession of sin, a sacrifice was made, and then the covering of past sins and peace with God was obtained.

In the New Covenant God’s pattern for forgiveness is exactly the same as it was in the Old Covenant but with permanent results. The Holy Spirit through the preaching of the gospel causes us to become aware of ourselves as sinners and in need of a savior. He then leads us to the cross, where we confess that we are sinners and at that moment we are forgiven of **“all”** our sins and we obtain peace with God.

1 John 1:9 is the scripture most often used to supposedly prove that we need to continue to ask God for forgiveness once we have been to the cross. But, have you ever noticed what 1 John 1:9 really says? **“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”**.

Notice, that there is no such thing as **“asking God for forgiveness”** in 1 John 1:9; rather there is, confession of sin, then forgiveness, and the cleansing of **“all”** unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 states that you are cleansed from **“all”** unrighteousness once you have obtained

forgiveness so there is no expectation of an ongoing confession of sin to obtain more forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 is talking about a one time confession of sin which obtains permanent forgiveness and the cleansing of “**all**” unrighteousness.

If you believe that you have to continue to ask God for forgiveness once you have received Christ then what you really believe is that God is holding your sins against you until you ask for more forgiveness. This belief causes you to see God as if He is constantly judging you for your sins; the result is real feelings of condemnation which bind you to sin all the more.

A Real Breakthrough

I was talking to a pastor about forgiveness; call him Pastor Noble because at the end of our conversation I found him to be of noble and honest character. Now, Pastor Noble preached the gospel for over thirty years and always taught believers to ask God for forgiveness when they sinned. During our conversation Pastor Noble was having a hard time grasping the idea that all of our sins were forgiven the moment that we received Christ and that there is no need to ask God for more forgiveness.

At one point in our conversation I told Pastor Noble that I could prove to him that he did not actually believe in asking for forgiveness even though he taught it that way. Pastor Noble looked at me with real curiosity waiting for me to prove to him that he didn't believe in asking for forgiveness. So I asked him this simple question. When people sin against you do you require them to ask you for forgiveness or do you simply forgive them?

Pastor Noble's jaw dropped, he lowered his head, and stared at the floor for a few moments. He then slowly looked to the right then to the left contemplating the question. With an utterly shocked look on his face Pastor Noble looked at me and said “I have never once in thirty two years of ministry required a person to ask me for forgiveness. I just forgive them”. My next question was why do you just forgive them? Pastor Noble said “I forgive them this way because I have been forgiven in this way”. Still in shock pastor noble said “how could I have missed this all these years”

In my lifetime I have heard hundreds of stories about Christians simply forgiving those who have sinned against them. Some of these stories are forgiveness for terrible crimes and not once did any of these believers require the offender to ask them for forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not something we have to constantly ask for as believers; forgiveness is something we believe in and apply in everyday life. Jesus said “take up your cross daily”, meaning, forgive daily. *Mathew 16:24*

Each of the following chapters will outline a specific area of life that you can apply forgiveness to which will result in powerful and sometimes miraculous effects.

For clarity purposes, keep in mind, that I use the word grace and forgiveness interchangeably; when I use the word grace I mean forgiveness as outlined in this chapter.

Also keep in mind that part of faith is speaking what you believe, silently or verbally. When you speak the truth of God in Christ you release the power of Holy Spirit to accomplish what you have spoken.

Chapter Three

Forgiveness for Yourself

The first person to forgive is you; the first person to place under the grace of God is yourself. Some believers think if they resent themselves for their sins they are somehow in agreement with God. Resenting yourself because of sin is simply giving more power to sin and it quenches the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mind and emotions.

Resenting yourself for sin is the first step that puts you on the sin-a-go-round. You know the routine, sin, resent yourself, repent, and then try to do better; sin, resent yourself, repent, and then try to do better; go round and go round some more until you are so frustrated that you just want to give up; or worse yet, you just decide to live with feelings of condemnation and do the best you can hoping for a life of peace, love, and joy in heaven.

If you have a hard time forgiving yourself you are just going to have to realize that self resentment is not agreement with God. Any kind of un-forgiveness, even self resentment, is disbelief and it will quench the Holy Spirit and stop Him from establishing God's love in your mind and emotions.

So, put yourself squarely under the grace of God; believe that God because of the cross has forgiven you of all your sins past, present, and future; that He is merciful to your unrighteousness, and He remembers your sins no more.

We don't just think and feel we feel what we are thinking. So, instead of being caught up in your thoughts and allowing them to flow through your mind unchecked become aware of your thoughts, become aware of what your thoughts are really saying and the way they are causing you to feel.

When you become aware of thoughts and feelings of condemnation, self resentment, simply apply your belief in forgiveness by speaking it, silently or verbally; either way by speaking what you believe about forgiveness, when you are having thoughts and feelings of condemnation, you will release the power of the Holy Spirit into your mind and emotions; and He will take away the thoughts and feelings of condemnation, and give you the peace, love and joy of the Lord at the same time.

Beth was sixty years old when she attended one of our seminars. She was a kind and pleasant woman. You would not have known by being around her that she lived with

daily feelings of condemnation. Beth came to the Lord early in life, at age fourteen, and attended church all of her life but still felt that she could never be good enough for God.

After the seminar Beth became keenly aware of the thoughts that were causing her to feel condemned so she began speaking her new found belief in forgiveness, just silently within her own mind. She would say something simple like “Jesus forgave me of all my sins, He does not remember my sins any more and I forgive others their sins in the same way”. In just a couple of weeks Beth no longer had any feelings of condemnation. She felt loved and accepted by God.

Charlie was in his mid fifties when he attended one of our seminars. His emotions were always a torment to him as far back as he can remember. Charlie described his life as an emotional rollercoaster, of joyous highs and painful lows, like swinging from a positive pole, to a negative pole, at any given moment.

Charlie came to Christ when he was nineteen and initially experienced the peace, love, and joy of the Lord which took away the rollercoaster like emotions. But, about a year later the highs and lows returned only this time they were intensified by feelings of condemnation. Charlie told me that he just could not live up to the righteousness that he thought God expected and he felt that the pain of his rollercoaster like emotions was the just punishment for his sins.

During the seminar, when Charlie learned the truth about God’s forgiveness through Christ his face began to lighten up, he was once again experiencing the love, and joy of the Lord. After the seminar anytime Charlie began to think and feel in terms of self condemnation he would silently speak the truth about forgiveness in Christ; he would say something simple like “Jesus forgave me of all my sins, he does not hold my sins against me and I forgive others their sins in the same way” and the thoughts and feelings of condemnation would leave Charlie’s mind and emotions and be replaced with the peace, love, and joy of the Lord.

It has been a few years now and Charlie no longer has to speak his belief in forgiveness. The forgiveness of God in Christ is now engrained in his mind and is working for him on automatic pilot. He is living in the peace, love and joy of the Lord all of the time, the highs and lows are gone, and he is free from all feelings of condemnation.

Sue was seventy two years old when she attended one of our seminars. She was one of the meanest and most religiously legalistic people I have ever met. Sue was raised under the hell fire and brimstone message and she firmly believed that everyone except the righteous eventually burn in hell. So, she was constantly preaching righteousness to her family with a very judgmental attitude.

At first Sue hated the grace message; she hated the message so much that she thought about it all of the time. Eventually she began to believe it. Sue told me that the feelings she got by thinking in terms of grace had to be the real righteousness of God because Jesus said to love one another, and when she thought in terms of grace for herself and others she felt love.

The change that showed up on her face and in her demeanor was nothing short of miraculous. Sue's son is a customer of my business and when I was cleaning his carpets he asked me what I said to his mother because she was now sweet, and pleasant, and he had never known her to be that way. The entire family was delighted in the change they saw in their mother. Sue is to this day a light of Gods grace and love to her family.

A missionary group took this message of forgiveness to a federal prison. Inmates who are trying to get their life on the right track often struggle with thoughts and feelings of condemnation. The missionaries told me that when inmates get this message of forgiveness the change in their demeanor and behavior is phenomenal.

So, put yourself squarely under the grace of God; believe that God because of Christ has forgiven you of all of your sins; that He does not count your sins against you, that He is merciful to your unrighteousness and He remembers your sins no more.

Now you try it, when thoughts or feelings of condemnation arise in your mind and emotions simply speak the truth of Gods forgiveness in Christ, silently or verbally, and you will activate the power of the Holy Spirit and He will take away the thoughts and feelings of condemnation and give you the peace, love, and joy of the Lord at the same time.

Chapter Four

Forgiveness and Past Injustice

(The Ghost of Un-forgiveness past)

Because of the body and blood of Jesus forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in God's mind; He is merciful to your unrighteousness, and your lawless deeds He remembers no more. So in the same way because of the cross let forgiveness for others be a forgone conclusion in your mind; be merciful to others for their unrighteousness, and do not hold their sins against them; even when memories of past injustices surface in your mind.

Have you ever noticed that there is a constant conversation going on in the privacy of your own mind? We call that conversation thinking. Thinking produces images and feelings just as if you are watching a movie in your mind yet participating in it at the same time. Among the things we think about are thoughts of past injustices.

Occasionally, throughout the course of the day, our minds will flare up with thoughts, images, and feelings of some injustice done to us in the past. We will see ourselves, in our minds imagination in that past scene, and we usually correct the injustice by thinking in terms of what we should have said, or what we should have done in that situation. But, have you ever noticed that this way of thinking never actually corrects the feelings of injustice. The thoughts of past injustices and their feelings still come back and replay themselves in our minds over and over again.

Past injustices can have profound present moment effects. Certain parts of your personality may have been formed from your reaction, in the past, to some form of injustice. Some of the feelings that you live with on a daily basis may have roots that go back to your reaction to injustice that was perpetrated on you a long time ago.

So, your reaction in the past to injustice may be having real present moment negative effects in your personality and in the feelings that you live with on a daily basis. Thinking in terms of what you should have said, or what you should have done when those memories surface is thinking in terms of resentment and revenge. When past memories of injustice surface and you permit yourself to think about them in terms of resentment and revenge you only strengthen the negative effects that they have in your mind and emotions.

If you think in terms of forgiveness when memories of past injustices surface you will release God's Spirit into your mind and emotions and He will heal those memories, and take away all the negative present moment effects. Past injustices, recent or long ago,

when they replay themselves in your mind and emotions, are giving you a perfect opportunity for the healing of your soul through forgiveness.

The greatest injustice that ever happened to me was in business. My wife and I own a carpet cleaning company and we hired a good friend, call him Dan. He was like a brother to us. Dan and I agreed that if he ever wanted to go into business he would open his own company where he lived, which was out of my company's service area.

Dan worked for us for three years and we paid him well. During his last year with our company Dan gave out his own business cards to our clients in order to build his own customer base. Then he left our company and placed advertisements for his company in the exact place where we advertise. He was riding our coattails in business as a way of building his own business.

This method of doing business is common among big companies but it was a real stab in the back to my wife and I, and I grew angry and very bitter. For three months I had daily thoughts, images, and feelings of resentment toward Dan and it was affecting my life in a profoundly negative way.

It was during this time that I learned how to apply forgiveness to memories of past injustices. Here is how it works. When thoughts, images, or feelings of resentment for past injustices come into your mind and emotions simply resist them by speaking in terms of grace, knowing what you believe about God's forgiveness in Christ.

So, the next time thoughts, images, and feelings of resentment for Dan came into my mind and emotions I simply resisted them with thoughts of grace knowing what I believe about forgiveness. I resisted the thoughts and feelings of resentment for Dan by speaking my belief in forgiveness just silently in my own mind. I simply said "I am forgiven of all my sins in the sight of God because of Christ; so in the same way Dan is forgiven in my sight".

This was the first time I resisted thoughts and feelings of resentment through correct belief in forgiveness and I was amazed at what happened. In just a few seconds the thoughts, images, and feelings of resentment toward Dan drained out of my mind and emotions and they were replaced with feelings of peace.

Anytime after that when thoughts, images, and feelings of resentment toward Dan came back to mind I simply resisted them with thoughts of grace knowing what I believe about forgiveness. The thoughts and feelings of resentment got weaker and weaker with every episode. In just a few days the thoughts and feelings of resentment toward Dan became so weak that I could simply dismiss them at will without even thinking about it. Within two weeks the thoughts and feelings of resentment for Dan never returned.

I did not realize the depth of the work that the Holy Spirit had done in my mind and emotions concerning Dan until the next time I met Him. I happened to see Dan in town about six months later and I was totally shocked at my reaction to his presence. You would have thought that I just met my long lost brother. I was cheerful, kind, welcoming, and full of acceptance toward Dan.

There is only one explanation for that encounter. It was the love of God established in my mind and emotions by the Spirit because of correct belief in forgiveness. A few months later Dan invited my wife and I to attend his daughter's wedding. We remain friends to this day.

Darlene was having a really hard time in life. She was only twenty five and had been in two near marriage but failed relationships. She had constant self debasing thoughts. She was always thinking that she was short, fat, ugly, and that nobody would ever want to marry her. She was tired all of the time and she had a very low self esteem. After attending one of our seminars Darlene began to notice how much she thought in terms of resentment for the past injustices that were perpetrated on her from the two failed relationships. Both men cheated on her during their engagement.

Darlene decided to take decisive action in her own mind and think in terms of grace instead of in terms of resentment when those past memories surfaced. When thoughts, images, and feelings of resentment for her former fiancés came to mind she began speaking the forgiveness of God in Christ just silently within her own mind, she would simply say "I have been forgiven of all my sins because of Christ so in the same way I forgive you;" the thoughts and feelings of resentment would then drain out of her mind and emotions and be replaced with the peace, love, and joy of the Lord.

Darlene felt better about herself immediately and as the weeks past she notice that she wasn't having self debasing thoughts anymore, she noticed that her confidence level greatly increased and she was no longer tired all of the time. Darlene also noticed that she was feeling love; as if she didn't need a man to make her feel loved, as if love was coming from within herself. As a result Darlene's personality became bubbly, vivacious, outgoing, and full of life and care for others. Darlene is now happily married with children and she has great self esteem.

Carl and Anna adopted two little boys who were their foster children. Mike was six years old and Jake was four years old when they came to Carl and Anna's house, they were eight and six when they were adopted. Mike was always defiant when it came to adult authority, especially female authority. From the time he was small Mike got a kick out of making women angry and frustrating them with his behavior. Anna was totally frustrated with Mike by his early teen years and she was constantly appealing to Carl to discipline Mike but nothing was working. So, they attended one of our seminars.

During the seminar Anna realized that she was judging Mike by holding his past bad behavior against him in the form of an inner grudge and resentment. She also realized that Mike could feel her resentment which just tempted him to behave badly all the more. So, Anna decided to correct her own resentful thinking by thinking about Mike in terms of grace. The results were phenomenal. Immediately Anna felt better about herself and she quickly regained the love for Mike that caused her to adopt him in the first place. Mike's behavior also changed for the better as a result of grace.

So, don't just allow your thoughts to take you anywhere they want to go; rather become aware of your thoughts, become aware of the un-forgiveness contained in your thoughts and correct it by purposely thinking in terms of grace. You will not believe the miraculous results of just thinking in terms of grace when past resentments surface. The Holy Spirit will always respond to you when you are willing to think in terms of grace; He will respond by taking away the thoughts and feelings of resentment and giving you the peace, love, and joy of the Lord.

At this point, if you are even considering thinking in terms of grace, notice that even the thought about thinking in terms of grace, brings a feeling of inner peace. One more thing; there is no need to go looking for past resentments to forgive; they will surface in your thoughts, imagination, and emotions all by themselves and they will surface often; deal with them in terms of grace when they surface and your soul layer by layer will be healed by God's love through the Spirit.

It will always be your choice. You will daily choose to think in terms of resentment and other forms of un-forgiveness and bear the burden of the feelings of those thoughts or you can daily choose to think in terms of grace and bear the pleasant fruit of that kind of thinking.

Now for clarity purposes in this next section I use the word resentment to describe all forms of past unforgiveness.

Now, sometimes past un-forgiveness is actually based upon a lie meaning the thought that produces the feeling of resented is not true, but it doesn't matter, because the emotions of resentment can survive very well within the framework of a lie. Therefore when dealing with past resentments that are based in lies one must treat the lie as if it is the truth in order to get a person set free. The following examples will prove this point.

My wife and I have two adopted sons, John and Tyler. They were our foster children before we adopted them. John and Tyler came to our home when they were four and six. John is the oldest and Tyler is the youngest. At this writing they are sixteen and fourteen.

John was always happy, as a matter of fact “happy” was his nick name in little league, but he did have one problem; John enjoyed making adults angry. He especially loved to make women in authority positions frustrated, as if he had a score to settle. He got a sense of elation and power whenever he could make women angry even if it meant punishment for him. As he put it to me, “Dad it’s like a video game, if I can get an adult angry, click I win, even if it means punishment for me”. John said that to me with a grin on his face that went from ear to ear and he was happy about it. He really liked this aspect of himself.

Tyler on the other hand was the angry one, he was always angry ever since the day that he came to our home. Until he was twelve years old I had never known him to be any other way but angry. At best his anger was on low hum but still present, one could see it clearly. At worst it was erupting into temper flares ups and fist fights. When Tyler was little he had a hair trigger temper, if he thought someone was doing him wrong, he would attack them with fists flying, even if they were older than him and he knew he didn’t stand a chance. We had a lot of in school suspensions for fighting in his elementary years.

One day when he was twelve years old Tyler was cutting the grass with our riding lawn mower. All of a sudden he burst into the house, white as a ghost, and told me that he just had desire to hurt himself. Instantly I knew the moment of truth had arrived and Tyler’s freedom from anger was only minutes away.

Calmly I began to talk to Tyler and asked him what happened. He told me that as he was cutting the grass and a car, like his birth mothers car, came past our house; and when he saw the car, he thought his mother was looking for him, and that she wanted him back. Those thoughts were chased by an overwhelming desire to hurt himself by ramming the tractor into the side of our shed. So, Tyler put the tractor on full speed and was headed toward the shed when his own voice began screaming in his head saying “what are you doing stop this thing now”.

I got Tyler a glass of ice tea and we continued our talk. I told him that his thoughts and desire to hurt himself were related to his anger which is rooted in some form of un-forgiveness and if we got to the root of the un-forgiveness this would never happen again. I told Tyler that I was going to make statements and he was to simply tell me which statement exactly matched his feelings and I told him to be perfectly honest with me even if he thought it would hurt my feelings as his adopted father.

So, I started my questioning. Tyler I said “does this statement match your feelings? I feel angry because I am adopted”. Tyler said, “no that’s not it”.

Does this statement match your feelings? “I feel angry because my mother gave me up for adoption” “No” Tyler said, “that’s not it either”.

Does this statement match your feelings “I feel angry because my adopted mom and dad stole me from my birth mother”. “No” Tyler said, “but it feels closer”.

Does this statement match your feelings “I feel angry because the children and youth system stole me from my mother”. “That’s it, that’s exactly it” Tyler said.

A moment of silence followed that question, and then I asked Tyler if he was ready to forgive the system for taking him from his mother. Tyler quietly said “yes” I then lead him in a simple prayer of forgiveness for the children and youth system for stealing him from his mother.

Tyler’s forgiveness prayer went something like this, “Lord thank you for the forgiveness you have given to us in Christ, you have forgiven me of all my sins and you are merciful to my unrighteousness so in the same way I forgive the children and youth system for stealing me from my mother”. We said that prayer together a few times in a row for emphasis and instantly Tyler’s angry demeanor vanished. At this writing it is almost three years later and that angry demeanor has not come back.

Now, Tyler was old enough to know that the children and youth system did not steal him from his mother. But, the point is, as a little boy that is how Tyler perceived it and even though the perception was a lie, it was still a reality in Tyler’s memory that was having negative present moment effects. So, Tyler and I had to go speak forgiveness in the form of a prayer as if his perception was the truth, so we could get the desired results.

John was a different story. He was acting out a vendetta, trying to make women in authority frustrated because he felt resentment toward his mother. A simple prayer of forgiveness was the cure. John’s forgiveness prayer was simple and it went like this, “Lord thank you for the forgiveness you have given to us in Christ, you have forgiven me of all my sins and you are merciful to my unrighteousness so in the same way I forgive I forgive my birth mother for leaving us”. John and I prayed that prayer together a few times in a row for emphasis and my wife and I have never had problems with John trying to make adults angry ever since. At this writing it has been almost three years since that simple prayer.

Reasoning with John and Tyler, trying to comfort their wounded souls, would not have gotten rid of their anger, nor would it have produced better behavior. When unforgiveness is involved reasoning, even truthful and comforting reasoning, is only a bandage that hides a wound that cannot heal without forgiveness.

The ghosts of resentments past hide in the dark recesses of our mind and emotions, doing their job, daily making our lives miserable. The first step to overcoming the effects of

past un-forgiveness is to match the feeling of resentment with a thought, even if the thought is a lie. In other words I feel angry because, I feel resentful because, I feel bitter because, I feel hateful because; the thought that exactly matches the feeling is the un-forgiveness. No matter how untrue that thought might seem to be it is still the past resentment that has present moment effects.

Once you have an exact match between thought and feeling you can have an effective forgiveness prayer that will release the power of Gods Spirit into the wounded area and you will see instant and permanent results.

Now, for my next miraculous forgiveness story I would like to introduce one of my daughters to you, her name is Chera. She is the oldest. Chera was raised during the bad years of our marriage. She became the rebellious daughter and I was the disciplinarian Dad; she was always rebelling, I was always disciplining, and that was our relationship. Needless to say love got lost between us.

When there is lost love between a parent and a child it always shows up as some form of dysfunction that follows the child into adulthood. I see this all of the time in the foster care system. Lost love between parent and child is serious business and can cause irreversible damage to the soul if it were not for the power of forgiveness.

One day Chera was home to visit for a few days and the old unresolved tensions and conflicts became evident in our conversation. I gave her some good sound advice about male female relationships and she immediately dismissed it just because it came from dad. The lost love was surfacing once again, and there was a big fight. After the verbal battle Chera ran to mom and mom told her that she needed healed from the resentment she was carrying.

My wife then came to me and told me that Chera wants to be healed. So, we all sat down and I told my daughter that in this conversation I was not her dad I am her counselor and she was to tell the entire truth as she felt it and she was to hold nothing back.

My only question was, “tell me why you hate your father” and she spilled all the beans. For twenty minuets I listened to lies, and half truths, mixed with some truth, about her childhood but it didn’t matter what my view of reality was during her growing years it mattered what her view of reality was during her growing years.

It was a relief for my daughter just to be able to verbalize the way she saw her childhood as it related to me. It was even more of a relief for her to see that I was not taking offence at her emotions. But, even though it was a relief for my daughter to verbalize her feelings and a relief for her to see me not taking offence, the open hearted conversation was still not the cure, forgiveness is the only cure.

So, I treated each lie, and half truth, as if it was the truth and lead my daughter into several forgiveness prayers for her father repeating them each a number of times for emphasis. When we were done the brightness in her face was absolutely phenomenal. Chera and I have a normal father daughter relationship now and to my surprise the lost love is fully restored.

Now you try it. Is there some form of past un-forgiveness in your soul that is causing you grief in life? If so, match the feeling with the exact thought that discribes to the feeling and you will have found the root thought of the un-forgiveness. Then pray a prayer of forgiveness repeating it a number of times for emphasis, you will be astonished at the results.

Chapter Five

Forgiveness and Power in the Circumstances of Life

Present moment forgiveness always releases the power of the Holy Spirit into the circumstances of life.

One day I arrived late at a customer's home, call them the Jones family. When I knocked Mr. Jones opened the door and screamed at me for being late and commanded me to come into the house and look at his carpets. Instantly I went into an internal rage. I hid these emotions for the sake of making money and went into the house where I met Mrs. Jones, who was equally as mean.

The atmosphere of the house was thick with resentment. It was obvious that Mr. and Mrs. Jones were in a heated argument before I got there and it was also obvious that they took their frustrations out on me, which made me even angrier. In the past when people made me this angry it was always my custom to go into an external rage, and then walk off the job. But this time I decided to resist the thoughts and feelings of rage through correct belief in forgiveness and see how the Holy Spirit would influence the situation.

As I was cleaning their carpets I resisted the thoughts and feelings of rage by speaking the forgiveness of God in Christ, just silently in my own mind; I said "Jesus forgave all my sins on the cross, He does not count my sins against me so in the same way I do not count the Jones' attitude against them, they are forgiven in my sight". As I was speaking the feelings of rage drained out of my mind and emotions and a feeling of peace came into my mind and emotions.

A little while later I noticed that the atmosphere of the entire house had changed, it seemed lighter. Mr. Jones asked if I would like a cup of coffee, and Mrs. Jones asked if I would like some of her homemade cookies. What amazed me the most was, that the Jones' seemed to have changed right before my eyes. By the time I was ready to leave there was a real sense of peace in the atmosphere of their home.

Mr. Jones wrote the check for twenty dollars more than his bill and told me that he didn't know what I brought to his home, but thank you and he said that he would call again.

This was the first experience I had with the immediate power of the Holy Spirit affecting the circumstance because of grace. Eventually I came to understand that correct belief in forgiveness not only activates the power of God's Spirit to establish the peace, love, and joy of the Lord in the mind and emotions of a believer but thinking in terms of grace also activates the power of the Spirit to influence the circumstances of life.

Now you try it and you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit for yourself in the circumstances of life.

The next time you are in the presence of someone who causes you ill feelings resist any thought or feeling of resentment knowing what you believe about forgiveness through the body and blood of Jesus; and you will have the peace of Christ in your mind and emotions and you will see the power of the Holy Spirit affect the circumstance in a profoundly positive way without any will, effort, or manipulation on your part.

Jay was ten years old when he told his mother that he wanted to kill himself. Everyday in school four boys were relentlessly teasing him. They would wait for Jay to get off the bus, and on his way into the school building they would blast him with derogatory remarks about his weight. Jay's parents tried to get school officials to stop the teasing but they were just passive about the matter.

Jay's parents attended one of our seminars and asked if I would be willing to talk to him. I drew two circles on a blackboard for Jay; one large circle and one small circle. I told him that the small circle represented the pain that the boys' teasing was causing him. I pointed to the large circle and told him that it represented the pain that he was causing himself by hating the boys for teasing him.

I showed Jay how to activate the power of the Holy Spirit in his mind and emotions through forgiveness. I also told Jay that the Holy Spirit would influence the circumstance as long as he maintained a forgiving attitude in his own mind.

The next day after he got off the bus the boys were waiting for Jay and began teasing him as usual, only this time Jay resisted the thoughts and feelings of hatred by speaking forgiveness, just silently in his mind. Immediately the feelings of hate drained out of Jay's mind and emotions. By the time he reached the entrance to the school building Jay was feeling great. Instead of feeling pain and depression he felt peace, joy, and strength.

This same scene repeated itself for the next three days and on the fourth day the boys were no longer waiting for Jay to get off the bus. Within two weeks three of the four boys became friends with Jay and the fourth boy came along as Jay's friend a few days later. These boys all remained friends through their high school years.

Through correct belief in forgiveness and with the power of the Holy Spirit Jay's enemies became his friends.

Now you try it. The proof that this type of belief in forgiveness works will be in your own experience. The next time someone does something that causes you to have feelings of resentment, just resist the feelings of resentment by inwardly speaking forgiveness.

Then simply enjoy the peace and watch the Holy Spirit influence the circumstance. Do not try to influence others, or try to manipulate the circumstance, instead, just watch to see how the Holy Spirit works things out and you will be amazed at the results.

Barb's husband, call him "Fred", was verbally abusive. Barb said that she cried often, and lived in constant feelings of inward pressure, pain, and turmoil. She was always confronting Fred in word battles because she felt that she had a right to stand up for herself and be treated with respect. Barb was married to Fred for ten years and under this belief things had gone from bad to worse. She was on the verge of a divorce when she attended one of our seminars.

During the seminar Barb gained a new view of forgiveness. She came to understand that through the cross Jesus forgave "all" of her sins as in past, present, and future; that because of the cross forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in God's mind, so that He is now merciful toward our unrighteousness, and our sins and lawless deeds He remembers no more. From the seminar Barb also understood that if she passed this kind of forgiveness on to others she would activate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in her own mind and emotions and in the circumstances of her life.

When Barb got home from the seminar Fred became verbally abusive as usual and she became emotionally hurt and angry. Only this time instead of standing up for her right to be respected and doing verbal battle with him, Barb resisted the feelings of hurt, anger, and resentment by speaking forgiveness, just silently in her mind; Barb said, "Jesus through the cross forgave all of my sins, so in the same way that I have been forgiven in the sight of God, so Fred is forgiven for his verbal abuse in her sight".

While she was speaking the feelings of hurt, anger, and resentment drained out of Barb's mind and emotions and a feeling of peace with compassion for her husband came into her mind and emotions. These were the feelings of God's love in Barb provided by the Holy Spirit for that particular moment; and in just a few minutes Fred stopped his tirade and simply walked away.

Every time after that when Fred became verbally abusive Barb simply remained at peace knowing what she believes about forgiveness through the body and blood of Jesus. This scene repeated itself only a few more times before Fred's verbal assaults permanently stopped. Just a few weeks after the seminar Barb's marriage completely turned around. Through correct belief in forgiveness and with the power of the Holy Spirit Barb was able to do in just a few weeks what she could not get done in ten years of standing up for herself and being confrontational.

I hear stories like this all of the time after a seminar.

Jim works in the telephone complaint department of a major corporation. He described his work life as a daily exercise in stress and anxiety with an office atmosphere of constant tension between co-workers. Jim's stress at work was also affecting his family life so he attended one of our seminars.

During the seminar Jim gained a new view of forgiveness. He came to understand that through the cross Jesus forgave all of his sins as in past, present and future; that because of the cross forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in Gods mind so that He is now merciful toward our unrighteousness and our sins and lawless deeds He remembers no more. From the seminar Jim also understood that if he passed this kind of forgiveness on to others he would activate the power of the Holy Spirit in his mind and emotions and in the circumstances of his life.

The next day at work Jim was amazed. When customers called, aggravated with some product, Jim simply refused to resent them and hold their attitude against them. He considered himself forgiven in the sight of God because of the cross, and he also considered the attitude of his customers forgiven in his sight.

When Jim was talking to his customers with the grace of God in mind he noticed that his own feelings had changed; he was at peace, and he noticed that his customers became calm and congenial during the complaint process instead of being uptight and aggravated.

Jim was further amazed at what effect the grace of God in him had on the office atmosphere. His co-workers also became more calm and congenial instead of uptight and always aggravated. Through grace Jim's personal and professional life turned around immediately.

Margaret is a high school teacher. Two boys in her class enjoyed giving her a difficult time everyday. She tried reasoning with the boys, she tried getting the principal involved, she tried calling their parents, but nothing worked. So, Margaret attended one of our seminars.

During the seminar Margaret gained a new view of forgiveness. She came to understand that through the cross Jesus forgave all of her sins as in past, present and future; that because of the cross forgiveness is now a forgone conclusion in Gods mind so that He is now merciful toward our unrighteousness and our sins and lawless deeds He remembers no more. From the seminar Margaret also understood that if she passed this kind of forgiveness on to others she would activate the power of the Spirit in her own mind and emotions, and in the circumstances of her life.

Through the seminar Margaret also realized that resentment toward these boys' behavior was actually enabling their behavior all the more.

The next week in school the two boys started being difficult as usual. Only this time Margaret resisted the thoughts and feelings of resentment by speaking forgiveness, just silently in her own mind, and as she was speaking the feelings of resentment for the boys drained out of her mind and emotions and was replaced with a feeling of peace and also a sense of humor about the situation came into her mind and emotions.

Margaret said that as soon as this sense of humor filled her mind and emotions it was as if the energy of rebellion drained out of the boys. She was amazed at how quickly and effortlessly the boys' attitudes and behavior changed.

A couple of weeks after Margaret started thinking in terms of grace she dropped a heavy load of books in the parking lot; and the same boys who used to cause trouble in her class ran over, picked up the books, and carried them into the school for her. Through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit Margaret was able to accomplish in less than a week what she would not have been able to all year.

Now you try it. Resist all thoughts and feelings of un-forgiveness with the grace of God. Let forgiveness be a forgone conclusion in your mind, do not count other people's sins against them, be merciful to their unrighteousness, remember their sins no more; and you will experience the peace of the Lord in your own soul and you will see the effects of the Holy Spirit in the circumstances of your life.

Roger was twenty four years old and worked in a nursing home when he attended one of our seminars; a few days after the seminar Roger noticed real differences in his wing of the nursing home. He noticed that his co-workers were calmer, more cooperative with one another, and they were getting their work done with more ease and efficiency. After a few weeks Rogers's wing of the nursing home was doing so well that management sent someone to investigate the cause of the turn around and hopefully imitate it for other wings of the home. Management concluded that the cause of the turn around was unidentifiable.

Roger has since moved on and is currently employed in an office that deals with warrantee issues on various products and of course he took the grace of God with him to his new job and the same thing happened. Roger did his job with such efficiency through grace began to get 100 per cent ratings for months in a row. His co-workers started asking question and this time Roger shared the grace of God with some of his co-workers and they also started getting better ratings. Again management was interested in how this office was doing so well, they knew Roger had something to do with it so they offered him a supervisory position.

Chapter Seven

An Army of Believers.

If you walk in forgiveness the way that is outlined in this book soon you will develop a gracious mind; forgiveness will become encoded into your mind. As a result you will have a felt sense of the Lord's presence with you at all times; and you will experience His influence in your mind and emotions and in all the circumstances of your life.

Also you will notice that as grace gains ground in your mind you will naturally sin less and less. Grace releases the presence and power of Gods Spirit into your mind and emotions so that you can feel His love and love does not want to sin; love by nature fulfills all the moral righteousness of God.

At this writing there is a strong conservative political movement in America. It seeks to restore conservative values to our political system. As good and beneficial as that is the conservative movement will never be able to hold its ground without returning to the moral values that our country was founded upon.

And those values can only be fulfilled by God's love. We are an army of believers. If you as well as other believers will learn how to walk in the grace of God, we all together can take the power of God's Spirit into the circumstances of our lives and see profound changes.

As a teacher they may be able to stop you from praying in school but they cannot stop you from bringing the power of His presence into your classrooms.

As a nurse they may instruct you not to talk about religion and politics but they cannot stop you from bringing the power of His presence into your wing of the hospital.

In any profession they may discourage religious talk, but, the army of God does not need talk we have a silent power that is more miraculous than anything they have. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world". *1 John 4:4*

It only takes one believer to change an entire wing of a nursing home through the power of His presence. It only takes one believer to change an office atmosphere through the power of His presence. So in the same way it will take only a small army of believers to change an entire country through the power of His presence and a little larger army of believers to change the world through the power of His presence. If we all would take up our responsibility to walk in the grace of God we all together can change our country and the world through the power of His presence; but, it will have to start with you.