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Sept. - Dec.
2017
Volume 1
Issue 3

Choosing to Forgive

To choose to forgive another is the intentional and voluntary process through which a victim will undergo a drastic change of attitude, feelings, and thinking regarding an offense/offender, while letting go of the natural inclinations to vengeance, bitterness, and hatred. It includes the full and absolute release of the perpetrator and his deeds into the hands of God, allowing Him to take full control and mete out justice, as He alone deems best and adequate, while choosing to absorb or pay the emotional pain and consequences resulting from victimization. Choosing to forgive does not excuse the perpetrator, but rather ensures that the victim is free before God, while breaking all chains that would bind the victim as a slave to the offender/abuser.

Forgiving one's abuser or offender goes directly against the human nature and is not possible in the truest sense without the divine assistance of Jesus. The flesh cries out for revenge when one becomes an innocent victim of life shattering abuse, rejection, and/or destruction. The more prolonged or intense one's suffering may be, the greater is the attempt of the enemy to implant his poisonous seeds of malicious anger and bitter hatred within the tattered depths of a victim's heart and mind. Once he gains the initial foothold, the downward spiral of inner demolition gains momentum with each step taken in that direction of hateful bitterness. Unforgiveness is similar to drinking large quantities of poison while wishing someone else would die.

One of the most liberating experiences anyone can know begins when he/she chooses to renounce and reject every bitter thought and hateful intent that they may harbor against somebody who has hurt or even shattered them. When we are faced with the need/option to reject the bitter seeds of Satan's sowing, we then reach a distinguished crossroads. Here we will have to make a conscious choice of following our feelings and traveling the dark road of anger, revenge, and bitterness, OR going against our will, feelings, and natural inclinations to take the steep, impossible - looking ascent on the rocky unbeaten path that leads to forgiveness.

The moment we decide to choose the path of forgiveness, even though "we don't feel like it," Jesus, the Master Forgiver, steps right beside us and enables us to proceed against all other argument or obstacle. He meets us wherever we are at on our journey, and freely pours out His divine love, abundant life, and Spirit-led direction. With His divine assistance, we can then make a choice that overrules the will, mind, pain, and all the bitter lies and interference of the enemy. At the cross of Jesus and kneeling at His feet, He aids us in love as we completely release into His hand all the agony of our abuse or hurt, the perpetrator of that pain, all the resulting damage, consequences, and everything spoken and acted against us. He then gives the abundance of grace, love, and power to pay for the damage done as we surrender it all to His nail-pierced hand to take full charge over. Jesus replaces every poisonous seed of unforgiveness and hatred with a deep compassion and love for the soul of the abuser or offender. It is then that the freed individual is filled with a longing that this person who ravaged so much destruction in his/her life would experience Jesus and join him/her in eternity's bliss! To reach this point is possible only through the healing touch and empowerment of Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I choose to forgive and release _____ to You for _____, causing me to feel _____, _____, _____. I am willing to pay for the emotional pain and consequences that _____ caused me, and I ask You to take back all the ground Satan gained through my bitterness. Please fill me with Your love and use all the pain and rejection suffered as tools in Your hand to perfect the work You have begun in me for Your glory and for the furtherance of Your eternal kingdom. Amen.

- A Ransomed, Rescued, and Restored Survivor

TESTIMONY - Jesus vs. Chocolate

I want to share how I have lost my craving for chocolate. I used to have strong cravings for chocolate at least once a month if not more often. I have caught on this spring that I haven't had any cravings lately, only 1 or 2 minor desires for chocolate in the last year. I don't really know why but I do know that Jesus has filled a huge void in my heart. Was I using chocolate to drown my pain? Then having worked through the pain I no longer needed it? There are times now the thought of eating chocolate turns my stomach.

Spring Seminar

Date not yet confirmed: watch the newsletter
Place: Countryside Gym, (Hawkesville)
3745 Herrgott Rd. Wallenstein, ON N0B2S0
Theme: Spiritual Warfare
Topics: - Two Kingdom Concepts
- Identifying The Enemy
- Identity In Christ
- Engaging In The Battle

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

In Everything Give Thanks,

We have just passed another Thanksgiving weekend and are enjoying a bountiful harvest with exceptional weather. What am I thankful for besides material things and when life goes smoothly? Philippians 4:6 calls us to be anxious for nothing. And with prayer and thanksgiving take your cares to the Lord.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

I am thankful for mentors who help others to allay the cares of this life and point them to the great Healer. Dave is one of many who continue to do this and bring others to peace.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

-By a Board Member

1Th 5:18
In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Eph 5:20
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for a good fall seminar
Thanks for your prayers
- Pray for Dave for wisdom and guidance from the Lord as he meets regularly with people.
- Pray for the board for wisdom and direction as decisions get made for the work of this ministry.
- Pray for the grief share group that meets weekly to help work through pain and loss.

Notice

1. Spring Seminarsee details on the front side of this newsletter.

2. Premarital Group Sessions – for engaged couples, but married couples are also welcome.

When 2 to 6 couples have registered we will cover some fundamental issues in relationships as a group with the option of working on personal issues as a couple privately with some assistance if required. Date to be determined. Please contact Dave Lichty to register.

3. Grief Share – Started Nov.6. This group is full. If you are interested in joining in the future, contact Dave to sign up or for more information for the next group in the fall of 2018. Some have already signed up.

4. Presentation

There have been some inquiries about doing presentations at churches.

We would gladly come and share with your congregation about the work of the ministry.

To schedule a presentation please contact: **Dave Lichty** or a board member (see contact info below)

Board Members

- Gerald Weber** (chairman) 519 291-4718,
geraldmarilynweber@gmail.com
- Lester Martin** (vice-chairman) 519-584-5693,
sing4himlm@gmail.com
- Darrel Wagler** (secretary) 519-595-4890,
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Discipleship Mentor

David Lichty 519-291-2503..... djlichty@xplornet.com

Keith Bauman (Treasurer) 519-699-0543, kk4bauman@gmail.com

If you are interested in financially helping this ministry,
Please make cheques payable to:

Peaceful Heart Ministries and send to:
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