



**ABUSED WOMAN
MINISTRIES, INC.**

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[ABUSED WOMAN MINISTRIES' INC. SCHOOL OF HEALING]

“Healing through recovery with God’s truth”

“Biblical Foundations of Freedom Destroying Satan’s Lies With God’s Truth” was written by Dr. Art Mathias:

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2005 Edition of Biblical Foundations of Freedom

About the Authors:

Dr. Mathias has lived in Alaska for more than twenty five years. He is a businessman, bush pilot, outdoorsman, and has authored several books and booklets. He and his wife Patti, of 38 years have two grown sons. Patti is an accomplished teacher and along with her husband are founders of Wellspring Ministries. Dr. Mathias has earned his master and doctorate degrees in counseling. Both Patti and Dr. Mathias travel extensively teaching about and demonstrating a powerful God that has answers.

I had the opportunity to attend one of Dr. Mathias’ “Biblical Foundations of Freedom” seminars a couple of months ago and it was a life changing event for me. I saw firsthand what God was doing at his seminars; I witnessed how powerful forgiveness is – people were getting set free because they decided to forgive – some had been holding onto unforgiveness for years - and that is why I decided to adapt his book into my Recovery program. Forgiveness is powerful because when we decide to forgive, we are obeying God’s Word and when we obey God, we will be blessed.

I am using these materials from Dr. Mathias’ book and other training aids by permission from him and his wife Patti.

Welcome to the journey that is going to change your life!

God bless,

Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD

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Class Dates & Topics:

February 21st, 2010 – June 12th, 2010 - all classes will be held online:

- Preface & Introduction (2 hour) – February 21st – 27th.
- What Is Sin – Chapter One (2½ hours) – February 28th – March 6th.
- Discernment – Chapter Two (2½ hours) – March 7th – March 13th.
- Accusing Spirits – Chapter Three (2½ hours) – March 14th – March 20th.
- The Major Strongholds, or Principalities, of Satan – Chapter Four (1½ hours) – March 21st – 27th.
- Principality of Bitterness – Chapter Five (2½ hours) – March 28th – April 3rd.
- Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits – Chapter Six (3½ hours) – April 11th – April 24th.
- **Forgiveness – Chapter Seven (2 hours) – April 25th – May 1st.**
- Principality of Jealousy & Envy – Chapter Eight (2½ hours) – May 2nd – May 8th.
- Principality of Rejection – Chapter Nine (3½ hours) – May 9th – May 15th.
- Principality of Fear – Chapter Ten (2½ hours) – May 16th – May 22nd.
- Principality of Occultism, Pharmakia & Sorcery – Chapter Eleven (2½ hours) – May 23rd – May 29th.
- The Kinsman Redeemer – Chapter Twelve (1½ hours) – May 30th – June 5th.
- The Armor of God – Chapter Thirteen (5½ hours) – June 6th – June 12th.
- Our Power and Authority in Christ – Chapter Fourteen (3 hours) – June 13th – June 19th.

Class Location: www.recovery4abusedwoman.org – Main Web Site



Winter Semester 2010

BFOF Class Syllabus

April 25th – May 1st

Instructor: Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD

Campus: www.recovery4abusedwoman.org

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Topic & Goal:

- **Forgiveness – Goal: to define and explain forgiveness. To accomplish this goal, we will:**
 - ✚ Review Major Strongholds, or Principalities of Satan
 - ✚ Review Accusing Spirits
 - ✚ Explain The First Condition For Receiving Forgiveness
 - ✚ Explain The Second Condition For Receiving Forgiveness
 - ✚ Review Bitterness
 - ✚ Explain How To Forgive
 - ✚ Give Bitterness Affidavit and Prayer Against Bitterness



The Major Strongholds, or Principalities, of Satan

Ephesians 6:12 says: **“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”** (www.biblegateway.com NKJV).

Satan’s major strongholds (weapons) are: bitterness (unforgiveness), self-bitterness, jealousy and envy, rejection, fear, unbelief and the occult. And he takes these strongholds and builds principalities, using millions of demons (powers) to do his evil work for him. That’s why it may seem like he is everywhere at the same time but he is not – he is not omnipresence – only God is; Satan is not greater than his Creator, which is God. Each principality is made up of so many demons, as you will see, and all these spirits work together, they are more faithful to the devil than we are sometimes to God. We know who we are really fighting against, it’s not your brother or sister, who are flesh and blood, but against “principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” So let’s make sure we have settled this in our minds. When a person says something to you that offends you, forgive them instantly because it is not them who are saying that to you.

Origin of Negative Thoughts: Accusing Spirits

Let’s see where these negative thoughts come from that comes to our mind. There are three sources for the thoughts and voices we hear: Ours, God, or from Satan. But the nature of our thoughts will always reveal whom they line up with: God or Satan.

There are three heavens: the first heaven is over the earth where we live, the second is the realm where Satan, demons, and angels dwell, and the third is where God’s throne is.

Satan and his entities obtain access to our thought life from the second heaven. However, evil spirits cannot read our minds because only God is omniscient (all knowing). But evil spirits size us up, watch our every move; they study our pattern and behavior for every action we take. They constantly try to lead us astray by putting thoughts into our minds and make us think they are our thoughts. That is why it is so important to allow the Spirit of Discernment to operate in us. We need to think before we speak and before we act – making sure our thoughts are not infiltrated by evil spirits but that we are led by the Spirit of God. This is why we must apply 2 Corinthians 10:5 to our lives every day which say: **“casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”** (www.biblegateway.com NKJV.)

Thoughts that enter our minds create energy resulting in saying, doing or thinking something about others, God or ourselves. Discernment puts a governor on our brain, slowing us down to stop and examine the thoughts and actions to determine what is appropriate. Discernment gives us an “on and off” switch. It allows us to be quiet when otherwise we might strike out at someone. It stops us from doing something that later we would regret. Sometimes discernment works to stifle a thought altogether, disregarding our feelings. Discernment will keep us from committing many destructive actions, as well as prod us toward healthy ones. One of Satan’s tactics is to show us something that looks good, when in fact it is evil and counterfeit. To recognize the counterfeit object or thought, we must know what the real thing looks like.

As I said before, we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers; accusing spirits are part of these principalities and powers – they work with other evil spirits to keep us in bondage. Accusing spirits are the ones who speak to you and have you thinking wrong about a person when they offend you.



The Major Strongholds, or Principalities, of Satan Origin of Negative Thoughts: Accusing Spirits (continued)

Accusing spirits are the origin of our negative thoughts. Their goals are to bring us down, bring other people down, and to bring God down. They seek to separate us from God, others and ourselves. Satan uses the old military tactic of divide and conqueror to try to defeat us; he ever uses this in the church.

Accusing spirits can operate in our life when we don't know what the real Spirit looks like. Accusing spirits build on our ignorance of who we are in Christ. They tempt to misunderstand who other people really are and confuse our thinking about God's true nature.

An accusing spirit will say, "Yea, I know I'm born again, I know the Word of God, I love Jesus and it's a wonderful thing that I'm a Christian, and hasn't God done wonderful things with me." The accusing spirit will build you up like this and then instantly, in a flash of thought, "but I don't measure up to others. I'm still inferior to my brothers and sisters. It's wonderful where I've come from; it's wonderful who I am in Jesus, *but . . .*" Accusing spirits love to plant doubt so your faith can be destroyed.

Characteristics of Accusing Spirits

These are the characteristics of an accusing spirit:

1. Suspicion
2. Bitterness
3. Mistrust
4. Always believing the worst about someone
5. Being easily offended
6. Easy to offend others
7. Exaggerating offenses and failures

If you have any of these characteristics in your life, there is an accusing spirit working through you and you must deal with it.

Accusing spirits will keep us from walking in the light with our brother even after repentance and forgiveness. We continue to be reminded of his sin against us and against others. Accusing spirits will seek to keep us from forgiving. Accusing spirits encourage us to keep a record of wrongs. They seek to nullify the work of the cross to keep us from fellowship with each other, and bind us with self-condemnation.

Have you ever heard someone say: "I will forgive you, but I can never forget what you did?" This is a very destructive thought that brings joy to Satan and sorrow to our Savior and is the work of an accusing spirit.

END OF PART I



Recap From Part I

1. **Who are we fighting against according to Ephesians 6:12?**
According to Ephesians 6:12, “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
2. **Name Satan’s major strongholds which he uses to make up his principalities.**
Satan’s major strongholds (weapons he uses against us) are bitterness, self-bitterness, jealousy and envy, rejection, fear, unbelief and the occult. These weapons are used to build Satan’s principalities which millions of demons (powers) make up.
3. **Which heaven do Satan and his demons live in and use to access our thought life from?**
Satan and his demons live in and have access to our thought life from the second heaven.
4. **How can 2 Corinthians 10:5 help us defeat Satan’s evil spirits in our thought life?**
We will use God’s mighty weapons of warfare to pull down strongholds, cast down arguments, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
5. **What is one of Satan’s tactics he uses against us and which spirit carry out this assignment?**
One of Satan’s tactics is to show us something that looks good, when in fact it is evil and counterfeit. The accusing spirit is the spirit which carries out this assignment.
6. **Where does a negative thought come from?**
Accusing spirits
7. **What are the goals of the accusing spirit?**
The goals of the accusing spirit are to bring us down, bring other people down, and to bring God down. They seek to separate us from God, others and ourselves.
8. **What are the characteristics of the accusing spirit?**
 - * Suspicion
 - * Bitterness
 - * Mistrust
 - * Always believing the worst about someone
 - * Being easily offended
 - * Easy to offend others
 - * Exaggerating offenses and failures
9. **What will accusing spirits try to keep us from doing?**
 - Walking in the light with others - even after repentance and forgiveness – by reminding us of the person’s sin against us and against others.
 - Forgiving – by encouraging us to keep a record of wrongs the person done to us.
 - Having fellowship with each other – they want to nullify the work of the cross.
 - Having total freedom – want to bind us with self-condemnation – we are free from condemnation according to Romans 8:1: “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.



Forgiveness

Conditions For Receiving Forgiveness

There are two conditions that Christians must meet to receive forgiveness. First, we must forgive others. Second, we must ask God to forgive us.

First Condition For Receiving Forgiveness:

Matthew 6:9-12 says, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

What is verse 12 saying? Jesus says that we are to ask the Father to forgive us our sins, when or in the same way we forgive those that have sinned against us. Do you really want God to forgive you in the same way that you forgive others? God gave us a requirement to fulfill before He will forgive our sins. Our forgiveness is directly tied to others.

Matthew 6:14-15 makes the above statement from the Lord's Prayer very plain: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

This Scripture clearly shows us that the manner or way that we forgive others sets the standard by which God will forgive us. If we do not forgive, or in other words, judge others, we will be judged by God in the same way.

The Second Condition For Receiving Forgiveness:

We must confess all of our known sins, past, present and future. Once we accept Christ as our personal Lord and Saviors, all future sins are not automatically forgiven; we must confess ALL sins. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us all unrighteousness." Notice that this verse begins with an "if." It is critical that we pay attention to the "ifs, buts, and thens" in Scripture; these are dependent on us – if we do this, then God will do that – God will... but we must....

James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

What happens if we do not confess our sins and forgive ourselves? We are not forgiven and the guilt, shame, anger, regret, sadness, hatred, bitterness, etc. is still in the memory and in our lives. If we harbor unforgiveness against anyone, including against ourselves, God will not — even cannot — forgive our sins. When we do not forgive others, they are not the one who will suffer, we will; and not only us but everyone who is associated with us. To receive God's forgiveness and the blessing of healing, we must forgive those who have hurt us.



Forgiveness

The Second Condition For Receiving Forgiveness (continued)

If you have ever forgiven someone, yet the pain of your anger or resentment persists, the bitterness is still there. Either you did not really forgive or at a later time you fell back into the bitterness. Either way you have allowed a root of bitterness to take hold and it prevents you from receiving God's forgiveness.

Do you think that Satan knows what the Bible says? Absolutely! He knows that forgiveness is conditional on our obedience to God's laws. Why do you think it is so hard to forgive others and especially hard to forgive ourselves? Satan fights this with all of his might because he knows that we are set free from him when we forgive others and repent for our sins.

If you bury a root of bitterness, what does it do? It grows. Satan's demons water and fertilize it, so that it will continue to grow. Our lives become so filled with pain that we are unable to forgive. This is Satan's favorite weapon, the inability to forgive.

We all have been hurt but we can't walk around in denial, we must truly repent to God for holding unforgiveness against that person, walking in disobedience to His Word – He said to forgive, forgive from our hearts and ask God to uproot that root of bitterness. Otherwise, it will destroy us from the inside out.

Hebrews 12:14-17 says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

Verse 14 says to "follow peace with all men." In other words, if we consciously strive with others — requiring mutual forgiveness — we will attain holiness. But if we have no peace, we will not have holiness; the moment we lose our peace, we lose our holiness. Unforgiveness causes us to lose peace by playing a record of wrongs in our minds, creating constant turmoil.

"Without which, no man will see God." This refers to us never knowing the quality of a true relationship with God. Without peace and the holiness it produces, we become spiritually blind, unable to see God. This sets us up for even more deception, costing us our ability to discern and it is very important for us to be able to discern; it is a primary weapon in spiritual warfare.



Forgiveness

Definition of Bitterness

Losing our holiness leads to failure to experience the grace of God. Eventually, we will have no love or care for others or ourselves. Instead, we become focused on ourselves, but unable to find any relief for our self-pity; just as Esau did when he realized what he had done – he wept bitterly but there was no relief for him. Our record of wrongs (unforgiveness) plays louder and faster, building into resentment, retaliation, anger, hatred, violence and murder. The presence of any of these indicates a root of bitterness. We need restoration such as is described in Galatians 6:1-2.

Bitterness is one of Satan's principalities and has seven evil spirits that provide its armor: 1) unforgiveness, 2) resentment, 3) retaliation, 4) anger, 5) hatred, 6) violence, and 7) murder. Each of these gets progressively worse, supporting and protecting the next one. Each of the lesser spirits is present in the greater ones (see Armor of Bitterness Chart on next page).

Bitterness is Satan's wild card. A wild card is a card that can substitute for any other card in the deck. Even though it has no power of its own, it assumes the power of the card for which it is substituting. So it is with bitterness. It can bring any number of troubles, depending on which one it uses to accomplish its purpose. Its purpose is to ultimately destroy faith, ours and that of others around us.

Bitterness drives divorce, heart disease and digestive problems. Bitterness is an extreme form of anxiety and stress which affects every organ in our bodies. Most organic diseases are tied to bitterness, including cancer. All of the auto-immune diseases are tied to self-bitterness.

Do we really want to be bitter? Christians are taught to seek to forgive. We are told to do so to receive the sacrament of communion. And so we confess our sins and say that we forgive others. But if we still carry emotional pain after we have forgiven others, then we have not truly forgiven.

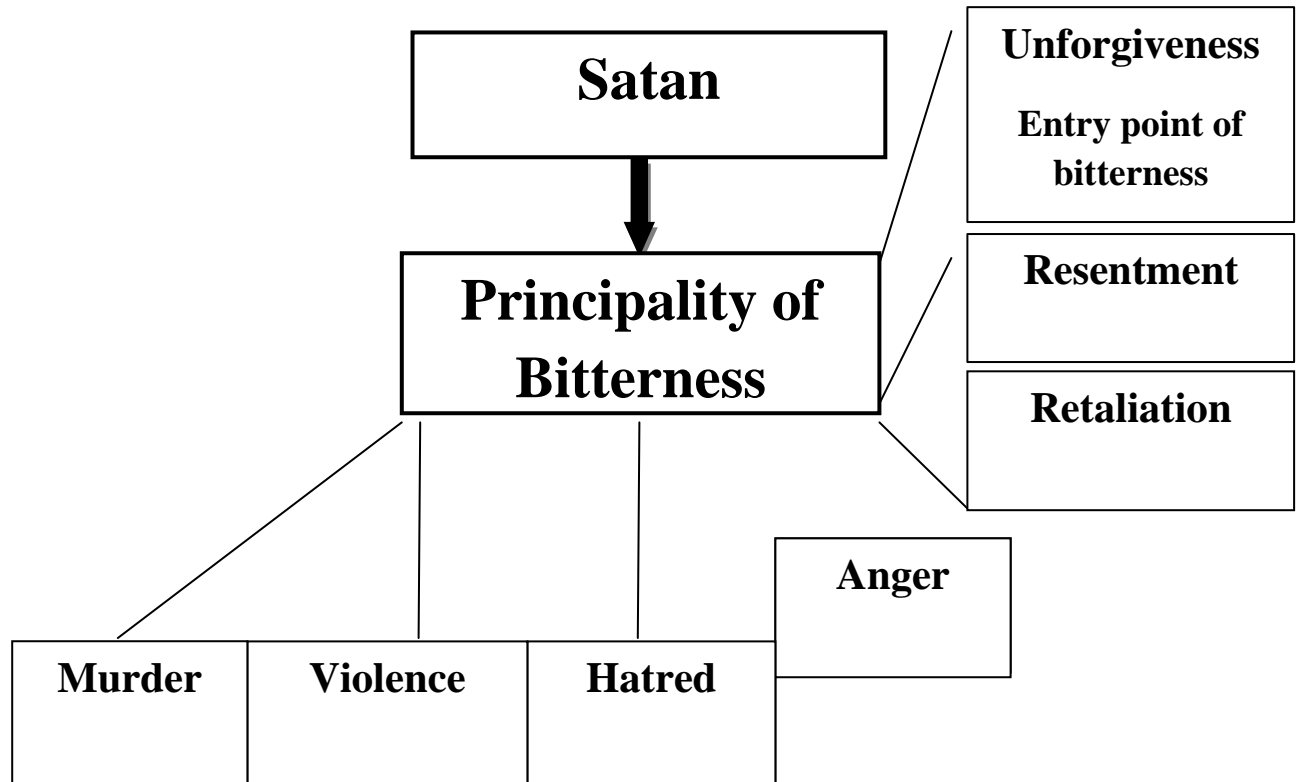
We need to learn how to forgive, not just that we ought to forgive. The root of bitterness not only causes us trouble, it defiles many others as well.

By the time the devil plays this wild card, everyone we have touched is defiled. Have you ever been with someone that is angry, hateful, and who refuses to forgive? Maybe they carry grudges and brag about getting even. How did this affect you? Bitterness is very contagious.

Hebrews 12:16 mentions sexual immorality. If we have bitterness, one hundred percent of the time it will invade our bedrooms by weakening our relationship with our spouses and messing up our sex life with them.



Armor of Bitterness Chart



1. **Unforgiveness – the entry point of bitterness**
2. **Resentment**
3. **Retaliation**
4. **Anger**
5. **Hatred**
6. **Violence**
7. **Murder**

Each of these spirits is more evil than the one before it; once they build a stronghold in you, unless you get delivered, you and others can be destroyed. An example would be a person who kills his family members and then himself.



Forgiveness Definition of Bitterness (continued)

Hebrews 12:16 also mentions profanity. To be profane means to desecrate that which the Lord has called holy. Paul illustrates profanity by the story of Esau who sold his birthright to satisfy his stomach. His foolishness was the result of an unholy - profane - chain of events. The chain of events continued to the point that Esau could not find a place of repentance or forgiveness even though he sought it with tears. I you are getting the picture that this is a serious issue.

Matthew 18 teaches about another unholy progression of events that surrounds unforgiveness. Simon Peter came to Jesus with a question: He asked, "how many times must I forgive, seven times ...?" (Matthew 18:21). Jesus said to forgive seventy times seven times. What? $70 \times 7 = 490$. Jesus taught us to forgive 490 times in 24 hours. This means that we are to forgive the same person for the same offense once every minute and 50 seconds of every day. The principle is that forgiveness needs to be an ingrained attitude, occurring naturally all of the time. Forgiveness should be as automatic as breathing - and just as important.

Jesus then tells the parable of the debtor to a rich man. The debtor owed the rich man about fifteen million dollars, but couldn't repay him. The debtor begged for forgiveness of the debt and received it. While the debtor was leaving the king's house, he saw someone that owed him about twelve dollars. That person couldn't pay, so the newly-forgiven debtor had him thrown into prison, and turned over to the tormentors, until he could pay the twelve dollars, a common practice of the day.

The king learned of the debtor's foul deed and called him back in. As a result of the debtor's spirit of unforgiveness, the king reinstated his debt, threw him prison, and turned him over to the tormentors until he could pay the unpayable fifteen million dollars.

This seems like a good story and we sympathize with the king's decision until verse 35 gives us the punch line. Matthew 18:35 says, "So likewise shall My heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

What is Jesus saying? What is the result of unforgiveness? First, our debt will be reinstated. Our debt is the debt that Christ paid on the cross. We will not receive this forgiveness of our sin-debt if we do not forgive others.

Secondly, we will be turned over to the tormentors. This is serious. Who are the tormentors? Demons. Some people consider demons to be imaginary, but the Bible teaches that they are very real and they cause tremendous suffering. Bitterness brings torment in many mental, emotional and physical diseases.

Thirdly, we are held in bondage to the memories and pain through the bitterness. In bitterness we are constantly remembering what has happened to us and these memories control our lives.

The Kingdom of God is not a democracy. We don't get to vote on how the rules are written. The Bible declares that if we harbor bitterness, we will be tormented by demons. The only way to rid ourselves of demons is to rectify the legal right they have to torment us (Ephesians 4:27). This requires us to forgive our debtors, that is, those who have sinned against us, including ourselves; let's read Eph 4:27.



Forgiveness Definition of Bitterness (continued)

The lack of forgiveness in local church bodies is a major problem. Satan and his minions craftily use bitterness and unforgiveness to stifle the work of the church, thereby limiting the spread and effectiveness of the Gospel. Any indication of the effects of bitterness and unforgiveness is direct evidence of Satan's influence.

Let's look at Ephesians 6:10-12 again, it says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

What is a "wile" or "scheme"? It is a craftily laid plan. What does it mean to "wrestle"? When the Bible says that principalities and powers wrestle with us, it is the picture of this struggle to the death that should come to mind. And the wrestling match has been brought to us. We have no choice whether or not to participate.

Jesus warned us that Satan comes to steal and destroy. It fits his character. Nothing bad that ever happened in your life was an accident. Its details planned in the highest council of hell. We are in a military struggle between two kingdoms, God and Satan's. Everything bad that has ever happened to you was executed by one of Satan's demons, a highly trained military specialist; they are skilled and experienced warriors.

The Bible says that the sins of the father are passed on to his children to the third and fourth generations (Exodus 20:5). If we have been abused, we will probably abuse others unless we deal with the effects of abuse in our own lives.

We cannot forgive until we have learned to intelligently hate Satan. Don't miss this important truth. The Lord gave us the keys to His kingdom. They are found in His Word. Using these truths allows us to unlock the door to Satan's rancid kingdom, and throw him out. Satan tries to build his kingdom in us but we cannot allow him to do it, we must kick him out of our lives by the Word of God.

We need to settle the fact today that we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places; we are in spiritual battle, we have no say-so in the matter. Everyone who names the name of Jesus is in this battle; you were drafted in when you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior. That person who hurt you is not your enemy; the devil and his demons are.

So, make up in your minds that you will not run from the devil and his demons but you will stand with the full armor of God – ¹⁴ **“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”** (www.biblegateway.com NKJV– Eph 6:14-18).



Forgiveness

The Antidote For Bitterness

First, we must recognize that we are bitter. This is harder than it sounds. A short time ago, I didn't see my own bitterness. If someone had told me I was bitter, I would have denied it. I was ignorant to the fact that resentment formed a part of bitterness. Maybe that is what God meant in Hosea 4:6 when He said, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge."

If there is any evidence of unforgiveness, resentment, retaliation, anger, hatred, violence, or murder in our lives, we have bitterness. If there is any pain in any memory, there is bitterness. If we go to bed at night leaving issues unresolved we will wake the next day with the root of bitterness already having budded in our spirit. I learned to accept this as truth and admitted that I did have bitterness because of offenses. Admitting that we have bitterness is the first step to recovery.

Secondly, we must repent of the sin of bitterness. Repent means that we fall out of agreement and turn away from it. And we ask God to forgive us.

Thirdly, we must forgive others and ourselves. How do we do this? There are several aspects to consider; we will explore them in the next topic: **"How Do We Forgive?"**

How Do We Forgive?

We start with the sure knowledge that every negative thing that ever happened to us was planned in hell. Our parents, spouse, children, boss, siblings, and peers— whoever has inflicted pain in our lives — served as a tool of the devil. Understanding this moves us toward forgiveness. Understanding this allows us to feel compassion toward others and separate them from their sins. God the Father is the giver of every good and perfect gift...if it is not good and perfect, it is from the devil (James 1:17).

In Ephesians 2:2, the Bible describes the spirit that is at work in the sons of disobedience. This spirit teaches disobedience. Is it the Holy Spirit, or an unholy spirit? This is what Ephesians 2:2 says:

"in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (www.biblegateway.com NKJV– Eph 2:2); this is obviously Satan. We have a choice to allow the "prince of the power of the air" to work in us or to allow the Holy Spirit of God to work in us. Through the Holy Spirit we can have power and dominion over Satan and his works. The choice is ours.

Next, we must learn how to intelligently hate the real culprit, Satan. Intelligently directing our hatred toward Satan opens a pathway to freedom by allowing us to forgive other. Not many of us have really hated the devil. Instead, we have hated each other. Galatians 5:15 says, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not one of another."

To intelligently hate Satan requires a change in the Christian mindset. We have been taught that anger has no place in our lives. As a result, we suppress anger or, when it occurs, we become self-accusatory.



Forgiveness How Do We Forgive? (continued)

Jesus got angry but He focused anger at the right culprit. I John 3:8 say, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Since Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, is it fair to say that He was angry with him?

The first time the Bible mentions anger is in Genesis 3:15. "And I will put enmity and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy u shalt bruise his heel." God tells the serpent (Satan), "I will put enmity," the strongest word for anger and hatred, between Satan and the woman, and between her seed and his seed.

What is the source of anger? God is. The devil just misdirects it so that we become angry with each other, ourselves and God, not him; he deceives us in this. Consider your life. If someone treated you like the devil, how welcome would they be in your presence today? Yet we lay out the welcome mat for the same damnable devils that continue to torment us. We get angry with our spouse who is accused by a spirit of bitterness, thus opening the door to our lives to the same spirit. Getting angry with another person finds us bowing down to the same demons that caused their problem; it is an unholy conspiracy.

Am I being clear enough? How do we forgive? We dig out that root of bitterness and get rid of it. We must learn how to separate the person from their sin, just as Paul separated himself from his sin (Romans 7:17, 20). Until you can do that, you will stay in the bondage of unforgiveness; it is not people who hurt you, it is the evil spirit behind the people.

My first job in helping you win your freedom is to successfully prosecute the devil, and in doing so, defend God. To do so, you need to understand the righteousness of directing anger at the devil. God will bless correctly directed anger.

When we forgive people, our act of faith allow a release of forgiveness, love, and understanding into our relationship with that person. The chains fall from them and us and the walls are removed when we forgive. So forgiveness not only releases the other person from bondage but most importantly, it releases you.

God is faithful to do His part and forgive, if we do our part. Our part includes forgiving every single person for everything they have done. It also includes repenting g ourselves for everything that we have done. The Holy Spirit will complete forgiveness in your heart. The sin of unforgiveness will no longer stand between you and God, or between you and others. God will declare you righteous and blameless. You will become a vessel of honor and an overcomer if you will obey. You will regain your right standing as an heir of God with all the blessings it carries. The peace that passes all understanding will fill you.

Satan and his tormentors have no legal right in us when we confess our sins and forgive others and ourselves (Ephesians. 4:27). We are free. John 8:36 says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Praise God!



Forgiveness

How Do We Forgive? (continued)

Do you have debts to cancel? Is the Holy Spirit bringing anybody to mind right now? Do you have any buried roots? Let the Holy Spirit search you. Can you give God your pain and grief? Will you give them to God? Would you like me to show you how to do it?

Think of the person that has hurt you the most during your life: an unfaithful spouse, rapist, a sexual abuser, or maybe a parent that rejected you or always put you down. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the one that hurt you the most. With that person held in your mind's eye, we are going to pray this prayer together first, then we will have an altar call for you to receive further ministry. The altar workers will have a copy of this prayer and I want you to come to the altar as God leads and have someone pray this prayer with you for anyone else the Holy Spirit put on your heart that you need to release; anyone else who has hurt you. We want you to leave from here today free from the bondage of unforgiveness. Are you ready to be set free and release the other person from the bondage of unforgiveness? Forgiving that person or those people does not justify in any way what they have done to you; you are releasing them because you want to be free from the sin of disobedience-let God take care of them.

Prayer Against Unforgiveness

In the name of Jesus, and as an act of my free will, I purpose and choose to forgive (the person) from my heart for (what they did).

In the name of the Lord Jesus, I cancel all (the person's) debts or obligations to me. Lord Jesus, forgive me for my bitterness towards (the person).

In the name of Jesus, I break and cancel Satan's power over me in this memory, and the resulting pain. I hate the devil.

In the name of Jesus, I command that all the tormentors that have been assigned to me because of my unforgiveness to leave me now. In the name of Jesus, I command the bitterness to go.

Holy Spirit, come into my heart and heal me of this pain and this hurt. Holy Spirit, please tell me your truth in this situation.

(Pause quietly and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. Listen carefully for what He has to say)



Forgiveness

The Bitterness Affidavit

As the Holy Spirit speaks to you, write down His message in the space provided below. This is God's testimony to you. When you have finished this prayer for each person or situation on your list, command the principality of bitterness to go in the name of Jesus.

BITTERNESS TOWARDS (PERSON):

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ANSWER (TRUTH):

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Self-Application (Your Homework)

Personal Responsibility:

Make your bitterness affidavit as I suggested at the end of the “The Importance of Forgiveness” Workshop. This is a list of every memory that has any unforgiveness, hurt, pain, resentment, any desire to get even, anger toward others, hatred toward others, violence toward others, or any way that you put others down. If there is emotional pain in a memory there is bitterness.

Application:

Then pray through each item individually using the “Prayer of Release:”

Dear Heavenly Father, in the name of The Lord Jesus, I purpose and choose to forgive (name) for (what they did). I release (name). I cancel their debts and obligations to me in this issue.

Dear LORD I ask you to forgive me for my bitterness toward (above name) in this situation.

In the name of Jesus I cancel all Satan's power and authority over me in this issue because I have forgiven them. And God has forgiven me. It is done and over with.

Holy Spirit please come and heal my heart. And tell me your truth about this situation. (Listen for the Holy Spirit and write down what you hear or feel.)

In His Service,
Dr. Hooks