

NEWS from Bringing to Light

The Entrance of Thy Words Giveth Light.

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Forgiving, A Key to Freedom

By: Charlotte Fawver

A father has sexually abused a little girl. A mother beat her little boy. A husband leaves his wife and two small children for a "younger woman." The list of pain goes on and on, and God asked me to do what? Yes, He said, "Forgive." Many of God's people do not understand the word "forgive." Some mistake the word to mean, "Act like nothing ever happened;" "You don't have any more negative feelings toward the one who hurt you;" or "if you still remember the situation, you haven't truly forgiven, because God forgives and forgets." Well, all of these are not true for us. Forgiving someone is not a feeling but a decision of obedience. I do not forget what a person did; I just refuse to allow it to continue to torment me. Abuse and pain take time to heal, but Jesus tells us in Mark 11:25 & 26, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Notice, when you stand praying, forgive. How long can you stand? Forgiving someone is a moment's decision. "I forgive so-and-so in Jesus' name."

If I forgive, am I releasing them from dealing with the consequences of their sin? ...Absolutely not. A child abuser should be taken by the proper authorities and punished by law. They certainly need therapy; but without Jesus, they will most likely always be a child abuser.

Why should anyone allow someone else's evil to keep them in the bondage of the sin of unforgiveness? If they do not forgive, Jesus is very clear that the Father will not forgive their sins. We are wide open to satan's attacks if we do not forgive. No matter how much that I say that I love Jesus, go to church, give, or anything else, I am still in sin if I do not forgive.

John 20:21-23 says in the Amp. Bible, "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! [Just] as the Father has sent Me forth, so I am sending you.' And having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit! [Now having received the Holy Spirit, and being led and directed by Him] if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained.'" The disciples had witnessed the cruel torture of Jesus and His dying. They are now hiding in fear for their own lives behind closed doors. Jesus appears to them and says, "Peace to you!" Peace? How could the disciples have peace when these ruthless leaders committed such a hideous crime against the gentle Savior, Jesus? The breath of the Holy Spirit ministered to them the ability to have peace and forgive. We have the same Holy Spirit if we are born again.

We see in verse 23 that if we forgive the sin of anyone, they are forgiven. Does this mean if a child forgives an abusive father, the father has no sin? ...Most certainly not. Every man must repent of his own sin. If we do not forgive, we retain the sin. We become one with the

sin committed. Why do you suppose an adult who hated the abuse of his Father, would, in turn, abuse his own child? He has become one with what he hated because he did not learn the power of forgiving. "Forgiving" releases the arrow of affliction, where the Lord's healing can come into our hearts. "Forgiving" is a key to our own personal freedom.



Rays of Light

In a counseling session, Charlotte looks into the eyes of an eight-year-old boy and she asks him, "What is going on, Jason?" (Not real name). He said, "Before, I go to sleep at night I ask God to protect me during the night that no one would hurt me. I also ask Him to let me go to heaven." Charlotte heard by the Spirit two things going on ... He was filled with fear and needed to be born again. Sure enough Jason said, "I want to be saved." His little friend at school and his sister had been saved. He wanted Jesus, too. Charlotte opened her Bible and shared the Gospel story in such a way that the youngest child could understand. Jason smiled and said, "I'm ready to pray." He whispered the sinner's prayer, lifted his eyes, and said, "Now, I'm going to heaven." His parents are going through divorce, and he has been facing much fear. Please continue to pray that God would continue to use Charlotte to minister His love, salvation and counsel to many precious people.

Taking the Light

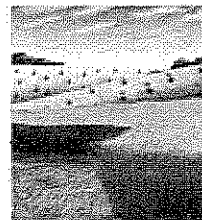


- Monday thru Friday - 8:30am WITA Radio 1490 AM
- WVLR TV 48-Monday, 9:30am & Friday, 8pm
- TBN-Friday, 8:30pm (Comcast cable only)
- Teaching at Park West Church every Sunday evening at 6pm, except the last Sunday of each month, with prayer for needs following the teaching.



Prayer Requests

- A dear woman of God needs cataract surgery. Please agree with us for the means.
- God's perfect will would be done in Charlotte, her family and Bringing to Light.
- People would be born again, rededicate their lives, filled with the Holy Spirit, encouraged, and taught through Charlotte's ministry.
- Please pray for President Bush, America and Israel. The United Nations is not united. Please take the events seriously to God in prayer.



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MIGHTY GOD!

