

Your Secret Weapons Humility and Forgiveness

Overview: Unforgiveness is born out of pride and self-righteousness which attempt to create a spiritual state wherein the person's soul and emotions are crippled and his prayer life is destroyed. The answer is the secret weapons of humility and forgiveness.

A. The Enabling Sins

1. Pride: Only by pride comes contention. Prov 13:10; James 4:1-3
2. Self-righteousness:
 - Awake to righteousness and sin not. 1 Cor 15:34
 - Esteem others greater than yourself. (Humility) Phil 2:3
 - As you humble yourself, God teaches you His way. Psa 25:9
 - As you humble yourself, God will exalt you. 1 Peter 5:6

B. The Initiating Sins

1. Giving offense.
 - Real: Woe to him by whom offense comes. Matt 18:7
 - Perceived: If your brother has anything against you. Matt 5:23
2. Taking offense.
 - Blessed are you when men shall revile you. Matt 5:11
 - Bless them that curse you. Matt 5:44
 - Turn your other cheek to him who slaps your face. Matt 5:38-39
3. Anger is the seed of unforgiveness.
 - Do not let the sun go down on your wrath (Forgiveness) Eph 4:26
 - Forgive and your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matt 6:14

C. The Maturing Sins

1. Anger overnight becomes unforgiveness. Eph 4:26
2. Unforgiveness grows into bitterness. Col 3:19; Heb 12:14-15
3. Internalized bitterness can produce depression which can lead to suicide
4. Externalized bitterness can produce rage which can lead to violence

D. The Deceptive Sins

1. Mental forgiveness.
 - You forgive but don't forget. Faith without works is dead. Jam 2:20
 - You say that you forget but you avoid the person.
 - Sin is that you deceive your heart.
2. Natural wisdom.
 - You avoid the person because s/he is a sinner.
 - You avoid the person to prevent recurrence of the incident.
 - Sin of doubt; anything, not of faith is a sin. Rom 14:23

E. Breaking the Curse of Unforgiveness

1. Identify and then RRB every incident (perhaps, after every interaction).
2. Forgive them from your heart; bless them from your heart. Matt 18:35
3. Esteem them better than yourself (i.e., value their attitudes, intentions, desires and well-being greater than your own.) Phil 2:3
4. Bless them in practical ways & with extra time praying for them. Matt 5:44
5. Allow the love of God in you to love them with agape love. 1 Cor 13:4-8
6. **See yourself as a loving, forgiving person walking in humility.**