

The Fundamentals of Spiritual
Warfare Part 2

The First Line of Defense

A. Fundamental Questions

- 1) What is the first question you would ask a Christian who is seeking help:
 - a) If there are multiple challenges in multiple areas of his life? (i.e., his life is a disaster).
 - b) If there are multiple financial challenges in his life? (i.e., his financial life is a disaster).
 - c) If the person is a strong believer, confessing sins and doing affirmations on a regular basis?
- 2) How do you determine (i.e., what do you check to see) if you are walking in the Kingdom of God (i.e., staying under the anointing; i.e., remaining in the secret place of the Most High God)?
- 3) What is the recommended first prayer of the day? (i.e., after you have confessed your sins).
- 4) Every good gift comes from God by your faith through your prayers.
 - a) What blocks your faith?
 - b) What blocks your prayers?
 - c) ABC is a gift from God. What is the fastest way out of ABC?

B. The Power of Unforgiveness

- 1) The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Jam 5:16b
- 2) Jesus had 3 great teachings on prayer: Faith moves mountains, Mark 11:22-26
the Lord's prayer (Mt 6:9-15), and binding/loosing and agreement. Matt 18:18-35
- 3) Of these 30 verses on prayer, Jesus used 20 verses to teach that you should forgive.
 - a) Reason for emphasis is that unforgiveness blocks all your prayers. Psa 66:18; 1 John 5:14
 - b) Unforgiveness turns you over to the tormentors. Matt 18:35
- 4) Unforgiveness is preceded by (taking) offense and rejection. These 3 are where you need to draw the first line of defense. Disappointment often leads to offense.

C. The Deceitfulness of Unforgiveness

- 1) The deceit is a seven (7) level attack. The devil tries to convince you:
 - a) That the incident is not important.
 - b) That you have not been offended.
 - c) That it was their fault.
 - d) That you cannot forgive them.
 - e) That you have forgiven them.
 - f) That you have forgiven them but not forgotten the incident.
 - g) That you are not walking in unforgiveness.
- 2) Unforgiveness is so deceitful that the name is not even a word in the English language.
- 3) Unforgiveness hides behind offense, rejection, fear, frustration, anger, self-righteousness.
- 4) The devil takes advantage of mental assent (i.e., forgiving from the mind, not the heart).

D. Walking in Faith for Forgiveness

- 1) Faith without works is dead. The Prayer of Faith requires a Faith Action Plan. Jam 2:17,18
- 2) You forgive by faith; without works, the process is dead (i.e., inoperative, ineffective).
- 3) When you pray in faith, you believe you receive as soon as the prayer is ended. Mark 11:24
 - a) At the end of the prayer, the point of contact, you need to take an action of faith.
 - b) Take a step of love and do something for the person. Also sing to the person.
- 4) Common ways to recognize unforgiveness when it is hiding: (Note: Remember that the devil always has good reasons why you do/don't take certain actions.)
 - a) Has your behavior, interaction or speech toward the person changed?
 - b) Have you avoided doing an act of kindness or love toward the person?
 - c) Is the person on your daily prayer list for blessing and protection?
 - d) Do you avoid seeing or addressing or speaking to the person?

Common Ways to Recognize Unforgiveness (Continued)

- e) Do you have difficulty in speaking the person's name?
- f) Do you frequently say bad or negative things about the person or hisr work or behavior?
- g) Does your body have involuntary reactions when you remember the person?
(e.g., passing hisr office, hearing hisr name, a mutual friend, recurring memory, etc)
- h) Do you, even deep down, feel a twinge of pleasure/satisfaction when you hear about evil or misfortune happening in the person's life?
- i) Do you keep replaying what you should have said or done during the incident?
- j) Does the memory of the incident keep coming back to you?
- k) Have you spoken to the person since the incident? or written a note?
- l) Have you quit your job or changed your church after an offense?
- m) Have you left the room or crossed the street to avoid the person?
- n) Have you left the room when the person started to speak?
- o) The person drops in to see the family and you make a point of being too busy to visit; or not being at home when s/he arrives; or leaving to do something important after the arrival.
- p) If you unexpectedly ran into the person, could you greet them without any memory of the original incident flooding your mind or affecting your emotional or physical reactions?
- q) If the person is a spouse, do you:
 - Go off to sleep, avoiding the customary kiss or saying, "Good night"?
 - Go to sleep as far away on the bed as you can possibly get?
 - Get out of the house to cool down or to go do your own thing?
 - Complain to your friends about your spouse?
 - Repeatedly tell himr what s/he is doing wrong?