

**SIN BRINGS BARRENNESS TO THE SOUL**  
**I'LL FORGIVE, BUT I CAN'T FORGET!**

**Part Two**

Forgiveness at times is extremely hard for a person to give and to receive, but a Christian is under obligation to do just that. See the patterns to follow in Matthew 5:23, 24 and in Matthew 18:15 that deals with forgiveness—*that whether you have wronged your brother or he has wronged you, you are to go and be reconciled*. It doesn't matter if you are sinning or are sinned against; a Christian is to take the initiative in settling the dispute. No excuse is acceptable in the eyes of God.—so don't give any—just be obedient to what the Word is telling you.

Mark 11:25 – “*And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses (sins).*” We are shown in Acts 5:31 that “*God has exalted to His right hand to be prince and Savior to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*” We are not given the right to hold onto anger and unforgiveness. There are many Biblical examples of wrongs done against a person and that person is willing to forgive (and to forget). Joseph forgives and welcomes his brothers back into his life.

**INSTANCES OF FORGIVENESS:** You may be familiar with the scriptures, but read them again. Know what the Word of God says about forgiveness—how God expects His people to act.

1. Esau forgives Jacob – Genesis 33:4,11
2. Joseph forgives his brothers – Genesis 45:5-15; 50: 19-20
3. David forgives Saul – 1 Samuel 24:10-12; 26:9, 23; 2 Samuel 1:14-17
4. Solomon forgives Adonijah – 1 Kings 1:53
5. Jesus forgives his enemies/his persecutors – Luke 23:34
6. Stephen, of his murderers – Acts 7:60

All through the Bible there are stories of forgiveness, therefore, we need to open our hearts to the healing of forgiveness. We also have countless stories of Christians who have gone through tremendous hardships and extreme suffering at the hands of others. Forgiveness is not a new concept, yet to forget the wrongs takes a willingness of your heart's surrender and obedience to God.

Corrie ten Boom is a wonderful example of forgiveness. Most of us are familiar with the book and the movie, *The Hiding Place* that shares Corrie's life story; her losses of family and all that was dear to her

during the German invasion. She has become almost legendary in her own time as a giant in the faith. She offers a lifetime of lessons from the Lord in her characteristic warm, heartfelt manner. I have read her life story, writings and devotions over and over and continue to pray for a heart of love and faith like hers. As an intercessor, Corrie has given me valuable insight on how to pray and do spiritual warfare.

If you know anything about Corrie, you would be familiar with her story and the German guard that plagued her and her dear sister Betsy. He made their lives in the World War 11 concentration camp a living nightmare. Yet we read in Corrie's own writings of her encounter with that guard later in life at one of her meetings. She had a choice right then and there to make when he asked Corrie to forgive him. I can only imagine how difficult that would be; the struggles of mind and heart, but she walked in the saving grace of her Savior. Therefore, Corrie's daily relationship with her God enabled her to forgive the man who had caused such pain for not only her and Betsy, but also for other prisoners.

So often we hear people make this statement; *I'll forgive, but I can't forget!* Beloved, we must do both in order to move on—for our healing to be complete. Release is found in forgiveness and a life can only be radiant and spiritually contagious when you are able to forget all wrongs. It is by His grace that you are able to forgive and to forget. Corrie did both. So can you!

What if God did the same thing to us? He forgave us and then when you do something wrong He brings the whole thing up again. God cannot and does not forgive that way. God does not trick us; He is TRUTH always! He blots it out of the book of His remembrance. So must you!

To say that you will forgive that person, but you won't have anything more to do with them, is not walking in the true forgiveness of God. I could not serve a God that taught us that way. To have God forgive me, but have nothing more to do with me would break my heart. To have Him say, I forgive you, but I'll get along without you just fine. You are out of my life forever; that is absurdity is it not? God hates sin and deals with it accordingly, but He is also a God of love.

There is really a simple solution to the problem of not being able to forget. Don't try to forget it, don't try to smooth it over, justify it, ignore it or drive it into the subconscious. Give it to God—release it from your heart and mind—get it up and out and FORGET! God will help you!

I read a story one time that brought this point close to home and I have never forgotten it. It is a lesson well learned. *A village woman begged the doctor for a plaster to put over an abscess. The doctor said she could have no plaster, for that would heal it over and drive the poison in; it must be lanced. The woman begged for her plaster, pleading that the knife would hurt. When the doctor refused, she went away and in a few days the poison had spread through her whole system and had killed her.*

Don't ask for the plaster of a half-way measure. Anger and resentment are poison to the system when not dealt with in the proper way, and the consequences of holding onto them can be physically or spiritually devastating. The doctors say so. We know that resentment and anger are physical, mental, and spiritual poisons. Rid yourself of them—get them out. Be done with them once and for all! Yes, you can forgive and forget (with the Lord's help); it is possible! For in Him, we can do ALL things. (Philippians 4:13)

In Corrie ten Boom's book of devotions, *Each New Day*, she starts January 1 devotion with these thoughts—*May a dying Saviour's love and a risen Saviour's power and an ascended Saviour's prayer and a returning Saviour's glory be the comfort and joy of your heart*. She shared that her Father used to read Psalm 91 from the Bible and pray the very moment the first of January began. She said that we consciously went into the new year together with the Lord.

This is a thought I can carry with me not only for January 1, but in the difficult times of working through hurtful and difficult problem. Jesus is truly my all in all. His love, power, prayer and returning glory will keep me steadfast in all my ways and when I forgive the wrongs done to me or that I have done, I will be able to forget and let the healing be complete.

O God, I pray thee help me not to whimper and whine, but to stand on my feet, when Thou dost take away my crutches. Amen!

Poison (anything that harms or destroys, toxicant, spoils something, to make unpleasant or nasty, or turn against something good)