

FORGIVENESS – Healing Rain Brings God’s Love to many

Healing Rain.

Treat the unlovables like they are forgiven. You cannot do that unless you know that you are forgiven and that you have forgiven others. Only then can the love of God come out of you.

Notice in the Healing Rain video Michael W. Smith pursued those unlovables. He did not pursue the crowds. What brought in healing rain? Michael’s love did. He treated them as if they were loved and forgiven. Forgiveness, in its disguise as love, draws people. Indifference, judgment and selfishness will drive people away.

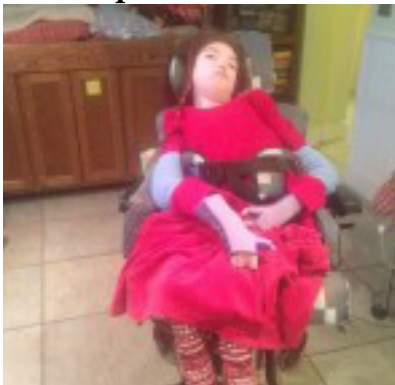
We need to love the unlovables as if they were forgiven, not judged or condemned. That includes not only people stuck in sin as in the video, but also the disadvantaged and helpless. We need to love others and think less about ourselves.

Babies think about themselves. We all have some baby in us that has to be repented of. How can we do that? Embrace forgiveness towards others and for yourself. Knowing you are forgiven allows the love of God to rule in your heart.

The story from the book Learning from Hannah.

Hannah was born with serious complications in her body and mind. She was unable to operate as “normal.” Hannah’s parents, who had been Harvard graduates and very successful doctors, poured their lives into her and totally forgot about their own needs. Their experience of sacrifice eventually turned into a real blessing for them and a ministry for nursing homes called Eden Alternative. In 2003 the nursing homes that our non-profit foundation owned in Denver Colorado hired Eden Alternative. It really made these homes very unusual and loving. The results and testimonies were ***amazing***; not only in loving and caring for the Alzheimer patients, but it caused the foundation to increase its earnings. Win – Win!

The authors of the book go on to say that the greatest gift one can receive is the opportunity to love and help a person who is “thrown away,” or disabled, dysfunctional, in some way; mentally physically, etc. ***Get your mind off of yourself and help another who cannot help themselves.***



Luke 10:27_“27, So he answered and said,” ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”” Remember the rest of this neighbor story?

Forgiveness causes this kind of love to flow from us to others.

Matthew 12:20 a

“A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench, ..”

I want to plant a vision in you at this point about the real meaning of forgiveness.

Picture yourself with someone screaming at you words of insults, especially that are not true. Picture that sin going into your heart and wounding you as the Bible says it does. Now picture Jesus stepping in between you and the perpetrator, and see that sin going into His heart instead of yours.

He “bore” our sins.

Isaiah 53:5,

“But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:12-b,

“...And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.”

When you agree with that truth you have forgiven and you are set free. He bore the sins perpetrated against you as well as the sins you have committed.

Forgive means to separate.

It is the same word used in the New Testament for death. To die is to be separated. To forgive requires cutting the sin away from one and putting on another.

Forgiveness defined: (Greek) *aphiemi* - means to remove – to send away, to remove, the remission for the punishment due to sinful conduct, the deliverance of the sinner from the penalty. To forgive someone means to account their sin against you as having been done, not to you, but to Jesus, and to agree to allow the sin and its penalty to rest there and there alone!

The struggle.

You could very well be tempted or even confused about whether or not you have really forgiven another person. It could be that it is just your emotions and mind fighting the fact that you really did forgive that person. Or it could be that your “old self” needs more “death.”

Your old self has been crucified with Christ and has been replaced in you with The Holy Spirit. Concentrate on making sure that you know that your old self is dead. I do this by continually making myself available to being convicted by the Holy Spirit for my sins and unforgiveness. The only one that has really been injured is your old self. When he/she is dead not only legally, but practically speaking, there is nothing that even remembers the injury with contempt.

Jesus gave us a clear message and a warning in Matthew 18.

Matthew 18:21-35 says,

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

23 *"Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

24 *"And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.*

25 *"But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.*

26 *"The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

27 *"Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.*

28 *"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'*

29 *"So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

30 *"And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.*

31 *"So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.*

32 *"Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.*

33 *'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'*

34 *"And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers [Greek: basanistes, inferring the jailers by definition] until he should pay all that was due to him.*

35 *"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*

In this parable the Master forgives, but the servant refuses.

It is obvious that the servant does not believe that he has been forgiven. A debtless man has no need to collect money. A freed man has no need to bribe his way of escape. It would be natural for a man who has been released a great debt to dance the whole way home, anxious to tell his family of their new found freedom, and ready to help others with similar liabilities. This servant either questioned the Master's mercy, or doubted his own safety, or denied his own ability to be forgiven. Only after we accept forgiveness for ourselves are we able to forgive others. When we refuse to forgive we are the ones who suffer as a result!

Love your neighbor

Matthew 5:43-48

“43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

45 “that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 “And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

48 “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 22:35-40

“35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying,

36 “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him,” ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

38 “This is *the* first and great commandment.

39 “And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **[If you have been forgiven then love your neighbor in the same way!]**

40 “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.’”

Who is your neighbor? Strong's.

1c) according to Christ, any other man irrespective of nation or religion with whom we live or whom we chance to meet.

Forgiveness Prayer Steps

- Heavenly Father, I purpose and choose from my heart to forgive _____ (the person for what they did).
- I release _____ and cancel their debt to me.
- In the name of Jesus, Satan, I cancel all of your power and authority over me in this memory (or this issue or this situation) because it is forgiven.
- In the name of Jesus, I command all _____ (see examples below) associated with this memory or situation to go.
- If needed...In the name of Jesus, I command _____ (health problem) to go.
- Holy Spirit, I ask You to heal my heart (and body) and tell me Your truth about this situation. Listen...

Repentance Prayer Steps

- Heavenly Father, forgive me for _____ (the specific sin).
- I purpose and choose to forgive myself. I release myself and I cancel the debts I've been holding against myself.
- In the name of Jesus, Satan, I cancel all of your power and authority over me in this sin. I am forgiven.
- In the name of Jesus, I command all _____ (see examples below) associated with this sin and situation to go.
- If needed...In the name of Jesus, I command _____ (health problem) to go.
- Holy Spirit, I ask You to heal my heart (and body) and tell me Your truth about this situation. Listen...

Some examples of common spirits to command to go (use those that apply to you)

Rejection, Abandonment

Self-hatred, self-violence, self-anger, self-condemnation, self-bitterness, self-rejection

Bitterness, Anger, Guilt, Regret, Sorrow, Shame

Fear, Fear of Rejection, Fear of Abandonment, Fear of _____

Control, Fear of Lack, Fear of the future

Retaliation, Resentment

Unworthiness, Doubt, Unbelief

Perfectionism, Performance