

Breaking Free

“Forgiveness creates an obligation for which there are no exceptions allowed. Love is a fire which goes out if it does not kindle others. Thou hast burned with joy; kindle him who comes near you if thou wilt not become like stone, smoky but cold. He who has received must give. It is better to give much, but it is essential to give a part at least.”

–*The Life of Christ* by Giovanni Papini

Unforgiveness is a prison that you put yourself in, held captive not by anyone or anything but your own dogged determination *not* to forgive, which ultimately obligates hell to carry out it’s plans for your life. What you won’t let go of won’t let go of you. A decision to *not* forgive could be the root of clogged happiness, clogged hearing from heaven, and clogged manifestations of goodness in your life.



When you forgive others, what you are saying is, “I will not allow you to be broken. But most importantly, I’ll not allow myself to be broken.”

Forgive is defined as to pass over an offense and to free the offender from the consequences of it.

Ultimately, you are the one that is truly free.

Mark 6:14-15 ~ *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you: but if you do not forgive others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins, leaving them, letting them go, and giving up resentment], neither will your father forgive you your trespasses.*

Is that asking too much? Remember, you set the stage and determine the extent of God’s goodness in your life....if you forgive, He can forgive you. If you choose not to forgive, He will not be able to forgive you.

“The state of Love of which we are afraid is that transitory stage when we are learning to forgive. This is the aspect of love that hurts and its hurt is amplified by our own reluctance to forgive. We, like Jesus, must live in a continual attitude of forgiveness; then we can step into the joy and power of aggressive love. God’s love is not just forgiving, it is for living. As we overcome bitterness and climb out of the pit of unforgiveness – suddenly we are as bold as a lion. Love grows from being a commandment to becoming an adventure.”

- *Holiness, Truth and the Presence of God* by Francis Frangipane

What does this mean for you – how will it affect your life? Why is His forgiveness so important?

When God asks something of you, He is always trying to get something to you!!

- What is He trying to get to you?

His goodness.

- What is His goodness?

It is His complete power adequate to every purpose intended to produce sound, loyal, profitable, honorable plans for hope, success, and excellence in every area of your life.

You are the one that shuts the door on all the goodness He is trying to flood your life with when you ignore or turn away from the Master Plan.

Do you really want to enjoy life?

Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating) but on the contrary, blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, protection and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that this you have been called that you yourselves inherit a blessing [from God – that you may obtain a blessing as heirs bringing welfare, happiness and protection].

~ 1 Peter 3:8-9

Blessings really do abundantly abound when we obey and align ourselves to God's instructions. More simply stated, it is similar to the boomerang effect – what you do to others eventually comes back to you.

Have you seen *Master and Commander – the Far Side of the World*, with Russell Crowe? There is a part of the movie where they are holding a farewell service for a young lieutenant who, for many reasons, was not well liked among the crew. Believing that he was cursed, he threw himself overboard in an effort to relieve the ship of their present afflictions of no wind to sail and no rain for drinking water. The murmuring and bitterness among the crew actually drove this young man to his death as they continually referred to the story of Jonah. However, even after the lieutenant's death, nothing changed in their situation until the Captain of the ship addressed the crew during the memorial service. Refusing to read from the Bible passage of Jonah, which was handed to him by a crewmember, he focused his words on forgiveness – each person forgiving themselves, those around them and the lieutenant. The very moment of closing with the Lord's Prayer, winds filled the sails enabling them to continue their mission and before nightfall there was rain to fill their drinking vessels. The point: it wasn't necessary for the lieutenant to be removed from the crew. It *was* necessary for the suspicion, bitterness, murmuring and complaining to be removed and replaced with an understanding, forgiving heart and attitude among the crew.

*What you won't
let go of won't let
go of you.*

You will like this movie...you should see it! And if you have already seen it, see it again!