

LIVING IN DIVINE FORGIVENESS

LESSON 5

M.I.P.

Session 5 – Most Important Point

**THERE IS NO OFFENSE THAT CANNOT BE
OVERCOME BY GOD’S DIVINE FORGIVENESS.**

*H*OW CAN WE LIVE IN DIVINE FORGIVENESS?

The difference between human forgiveness and divine forgiveness is the two words we hit so hard last lesson, even as.

Eph 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

The Greek for even as means in the same proportion as Christ forgave you, so you also **MUST DO!** (see also Col 3:12-14)

God’s command is for us to forgive our spouse in the same proportion as Christ forgave us.

Because the sin of unforgiveness will build a wall of separation between you and your spouse, and between you and God.

Divine forgiveness is NOT approving of, or excusing, sin in our spouse. It's NOT denying the offense. It's NOT pretending you're not hurt.

Divine forgiveness is being fully aware of the offense and making a choice (against your feelings) to:

- 1 **Release** them from the debt
- 2 **Refuse** to punish them
- 3 Keep **No Record** of the wrong



That is how God in Christ has forgiven you, and that is how you are called to forgive your spouse.



DIVINE FORGIVENESS IS IMPOSSIBLE IN OUR OWN NATURE

The steps to divine forgiveness are supernatural. It starts with;

- 1) Crucifying our self-will.
- 2) Asking God to baptize us in His Agape Love, by the person of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Then choosing by faith to **apply** God's Agape Love to every offense in our marriage.

Rom 5:5

"... the [Agape] love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

God's agape love is that unconditional, self-sacrificing love that we don't have in our own nature. It is the power of God alive in us. We can't apply it in our own strength, we can only choose by faith to yield to the agape love God has given to us by the Holy Spirit.

Living in divine forgiveness is a process that you can start today.

2Cor 3:18 says; " . . . *And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*" - NLT

5 STEPS TO LIVING IN DIVINE FORGIVENESS

- 1 **Recognize** – Unforgiveness in your heart
- 2 **Receive** – God’s command to forgive by faith
- 3 **Repent** – of your sin with Godly sorrow
- 4 **Replace** – your hard heart with God’s heart
- 5 _____ – *(the secret to divine forgiveness success)*

STEP # 1 - RECOGNIZE UNFORGIVENESS IN YOUR HEART

Begin by asking God to reveal ANY unforgiveness you are carrying.

Psa 139:23-24 (NLT)

²³ *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.*

²⁴ *Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”*

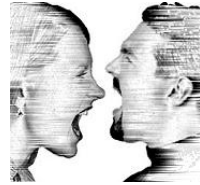
God has given us signs to show us when we’re harboring unforgiveness.

The first sign of unforgiveness is separation



Unforgiveness is a sin that separates us from God and from our spouse.

So, if we feel separated from God or our spouse, we need to search our hearts for unforgiveness, because it’s almost always there.



The second sign of unforgiveness is *our tongue*

Mat 12:34

“ . . . For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Listen to the words that are coming out of your mouth, because unforgiveness is always revealed in your tongue.

The best way to know if your tongue is a sign of unforgiveness is . . .
ASK YOUR SPOUSE !

Anger – Bitterness – Resentment – Jealousy – Envy . . . are ALL signs of unforgiveness. And these sins are all revealed by what comes out of your mouth toward your spouse.

AN OPEN DOOR . . .

We must also recognize that unforgiveness is an open door for Satan to bring destruction into our lives.

In **2Cor Ch 2**, Paul is speaking about the necessity of forgiveness, and in verse 11, he says *“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”*

Satan will take advantage of unforgiveness in your heart to bring damage and destruction into your life.

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STEP # 2 – RECEIVE GOD’S COMMAND TO FORGIVE BY FAITH

There’s nothing here about *feelings*. This is strictly *obedience by faith*.

Heb 11:6 says

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Faith is the opposite of Feeling. God is waiting for you to say:

“I Receive your command to forgive just as I’ve been forgiven.”

“I Believe your Word and I will act on your command BY FAITH.”



*Your power is in yielding your actions to the Holy Spirit (see Rom 6:12-14). As you yield to the Holy Spirit, **He** is your power to do what you cannot do on your own, and that is how your life and your marriage are transformed.*

If you will CHOOSE (and continue to choose) to act on God’s command to forgive by faith, THEN you will (in time) begin to experience the supernatural transformation of divine forgiveness in your marriage.

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STEP # 3 – REPENT OF YOUR SIN WITH GODLY SORROW

Unforgiveness is a sin that must be repented of, just like any other sin!

2Cor 7:10

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted . . .”



Godly Sorrow = Sorrow or Grieving that is Due (owed to) God
Repentance = A Change of Mind, Purpose, **and** Action

When we experience sorrow and grieving that we rightfully owe to God, it produces a change of mind, purpose, and action.

Have you experienced this level of “Godly Sorrow” over your sin of unforgiveness? Until you do, you will continue to justify and rationalize your pride and self-will. And Satan will continue to bring destruction into your marriage, and your life.

When we come to God with true godly sorrow, He will begin to heal us, and we will be ready to yield our self to His miraculous divine forgiveness.

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STEP # 4 – REPLACE YOUR HARD HEART WITH GOD’S HEART

At the cross there was an exchange of hearts. Jesus Christ took upon Himself our heart of sin and He gave us His own heart .

2Cor 5:21 says;

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Paul understood this when he said in Gal 2:20:

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;"

When we have crucified our self-will, **then** our hard heart can be replaced with God’s divine heart.

Rom 12:1-2 is one of the best descriptions in the Bible of the supernatural transformation of your heart through the power of yielding your life to the Holy Spirit.

Rom 12:1-2

"¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice [sacrifice your self-will], holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

² And do not be conformed to this world [don’t do what is natural], but be transformed [get a new nature] by the renewing of your mind [by the Holy Spirit], that you may prove [know] what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

God is ready, willing, and able . . . but you must choose to crucify your self and yield your actions to God, so He can live through you.

All that bitterness, resentment, and anger, will begin to heal as you crucify the 'self' nature, be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and put on the new nature of Jesus Christ (see **Eph 4:17-32**, and **Col 3:1-17**).

5 STEPS TO LIVING IN DIVINE FORGIVENESS

- 1 Recognize – Unforgiveness in your heart (the torture)
- 2 Receive – God’s command to forgive by faith
- 3 Repent – of your sin with Godly sorrow
- 4 Replace – your hard heart with God’s heart (be transformed)
- 5 _____ –

And now - there’s that pesky step # 5.

The 5th step is actually the secret to living in divine forgiveness every day of your life.

The secret 5th step to living in divine forgiveness is . . .

STEP # 5 – REPEAT AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY

When the sin of unforgiveness rises up again to destroy your life, you must **REPEAT** Steps 1 through 4.

Divine Forgiveness is a lifelong commitment, because our flesh is a lifelong enemy. So when your mind starts dwelling on the hurtful events again, remember... you are feeding poison into your heart.

Watch closely for any root of bitterness springing back up, and immediately crucify it by **REPEATING** this process.

You don’t have to be a slave to your Unforgiveness!

You can begin to get victory over the sin of unforgiveness right now.

God is waiting for you, and ready to empower you, to start walking in divine forgiveness by faith.



Response Time . . .

Are you holding onto unforgiveness in **ANY** area of your marriage?

Are you willing to crucify your 'self' and have your heart supernaturally transformed by yielding to God's agape love?

Are you willing to act on God's command by faith to release God's power to unconditionally forgive your spouse?

Are you willing to repeat this process to keep your heart cleansed of this sin?

Let's Pray: *"Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that our unforgiveness is destroying our marriages. We receive Your command to divine unconditional forgiveness. We repent of our sin of unforgiveness. Please give us a clean heart and renew a right spirit in us. May we yield to Your agape love in our lives by the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen."*