

## The Root of Bitterness

Scripture is clear that having a root of bitterness is destructive to us as well as others. It also eradicates God's grace from our lives effecting adversely our relationship with the Lord and others.

Heb. 12:15, *Looking diligently (carefully-Deu. 29:18) lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

Bitterness is a principality; under it and answering to it are seven spirits that reinforce bitterness. Unforgiveness, resentment, retaliation, anger, hatred, violence, and murder, each one growing progressively more evil all the way to murder.

Ephesians 6:12, For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The first root of Bitterness is seen in **Unforgiveness**. Unforgiveness says I am not willing to forgive the offense done to me. I will remember what has been done to me forever. Unforgiveness invites bitterness to become a part of our lives and to subject us to the next six spirits.

Forgiving others, ourselves and the Lord is not an option, it is a commandment. In **Matthew 18:21-22 we have Peter asking the Lord a question about forgiveness**. *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

**Matthew 18:23-35 (KJV) 23)** *Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.*

**24)** *And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.*

**25)** *But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.*

**26)** *The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.*

**27)** *Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.*

**28)** *But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.*

**29)** *And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.*

**30)** *And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.*

**31)** *So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.*

**32)** *Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:*

**33)** *Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?*

**34)** *And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.*

**35)** *So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

In this parable Jesus likens unforgiveness to a debt that a servant could not pay and he and his whole family was to be thrown into prison and all that they owned was to be confiscated. In addition, we also see tormentors being released into their lives. The roots of bitterness will always seriously affect others around us.

The greatest consequence can be our names being removed from the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Matthew 6:14-15 (KJV) 14)** *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:*

**15)** *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

**Mark 11:22-26 (KJV) 22)** *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

**23)** *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

**24)** *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

**25)** *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

**26)** *But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

**Luke 10:17-19 (KJV) 17)** *And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.*

**18)** *And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

**19)** *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Unforgiveness removes the authority we have to cast out the demonic realm from our lives as seen here in

**Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV) 31)** *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

**32)** *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

This scripture could not be clearer regarding bitterness and its roots being sin. It also reminds us once again of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. We recognize that forgiveness is sometimes very difficult because of the extreme abuse some people have endured. However, we will be revealing provision that God has made to help us be victorious.

The second root of Bitterness is seen in **Resentment**. In scripture resentment is not used however, indignation is used which means the same thing. Resentment - a feeling of indignant displeasure or persistent ill will at something or someone, regarded as a wrong, insult, or injury. This is fueled by rehearsing, over and over in our minds, the reason for our unforgiveness.

*Resentment . . . is a deep, reflective displeasure against the conduct of the offender. Cogan.*

**Matthew 20:24 (KJV)** *And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.*

The third root of Bitterness is seen in **Retaliation**. Retaliation says, "I'm going to get even with you"; "you're going to pay for what you did to me". We see that Retaliation is the act of retaliating, or punishment, or of returning like for like; specifically, the return of evil for evil; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

**Romans 12:17-19 (KJV) 17)** *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

**18)** *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

**19)** *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

The fourth root of Bitterness is seen in **Anger, wrath, and rage**. Anger, wrath, and rage are extremely strong emotions which if left to their own satanic devices, will lead to Hatred, Violence and Murder.

**James 1:19-20 (KJV) 19)** *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*

**20)** *For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*

**Ephesians 4:26 (KJV)** *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

**Proverbs 15:1 (KJV)** *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

**Ecclesiastes 7:9 (KJV)** *Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*

**Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV) 31)** *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

**32)** *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

The fifth root of Bitterness is **Hatred**. Hatred creates thought in our minds of eliminating. Hatred despises and is intensely hostile.

**Proverbs 12:12 (KJV)** *The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.*

**Titus 3:3-5 (KJV) 3)** *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

**4)** *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,*

**5)** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

The sixth root of Bitterness is **Violence**. We can be violent verbally, physically, mentally, and emotionally. Screaming and yelling are verbally abusive. Slapping, punching, and

kicking are physically violent. Any cruel actions be they verbal or physical will always be damaging to our spirit, soul and body. This is not an exhaustive list of violence, we all know it when we see it.

**Genesis 6:13 (KJV)** *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

The seventh and final root of Bitterness is **Murder**. Murder can be the taking of another person's life, just like Cain did to Able and as seen in **1 John 3:15 (KJV)** *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

Over these last twenty years of doing discipleship and deliverance ministry I have very often seen these four strong men accompanying Bitterness in a Believer's life, **Accusation, Envy and Jealousy, and Rejection and Abandonment.**

**Accusation** is defined as judging, criticizing, condemning, and slandering. The strongman of accusation is a two-way street. We can receive accusation and we can also accuse. Some of the underlings that report to accusation are: gossiping, murmuring, complaining, comparison, competition, and racism.

**Revelation 12:9 (KJV)** *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

**Envy and Jealousy** is defined as having an ungodly desire to have something someone else has. Jealousy is to be obsessively possessive over something they have.

**Proverbs 14:30 (KJV)** *A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.*

**Proverbs 27:4 (KJV)** *Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?*

**Romans 1:29 (KJV)** *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

**Rejection and Abandonment** – Rejection communicates that a person is unacceptable, of no value, does not belong and is not wanted. When one senses they are being rejected, it causes a feeling of Abandonment. Rejection can be experienced by a discussed look, the silent treatment, a snob, neglect, and a direct statement that says you are not invited. Once again, rejection causes feelings of abandonment.

**Isaiah 53:3-5 (KJV) 3)** *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.*

**4)** *Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

**5)** *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.*

Jesus was rejected and abandoned more than any man. Is. 53:3-5, describe the horrible, painful, consequences of His rejection and abandonment. Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord, we have an eternal identity. i.e. Scripture says, *we are the sons and daughter of God, made in God's image and His likeness, we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, excepted in the Beloved, loved with an everlasting love, and the apple of God's eye.*

To defeat these powers of darkness in this teaching, there are several steps that we need to take.

1. In Hebrews 5 scripture explains the importance of being able to discern both good and evil.
2. When the fiery darts of the enemy which are sin, are trying to come against us, we need to raise the shield of faith and say, 'I don't receive you, bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, retaliation, anger, hatred, violence, murder, accusation, envy and jealousy, rejection and abandonment. For it is written, I was not given any of these evil spirits but the Spirit of power, love, and a sound mind.
3. However, when evil has entered into our hearts, we need to take responsibility for the sin that has entered in. In this case we need to ask the Lord for forgiveness, receive that forgiveness, and repent if we have sinned against another.
4. We are now ready to take authority, bind, and cast out, the sin and iniquity that has entered our hearts. This would apply to any demonic entities not just the examples given in this teaching. For example: fear, shame, guilt, lust, and any other sin.
5. Let us now give Father, God, thanksgiving, and praise for this deliverance. Lord, I love You and give You praise. You are the King of kings, You are the Lord of lords, the Bright and Morning Star, the Way, the Truth and the Life, and I thank You for loving me and making me in Your image and Your likeness. You have said

that I am accepted in the Beloved, loved with an everlasting love, the apple of  
Your eye, I worship You in Jesus' name, Amen.