

THE CURES OF BITTERNESS Pt. 2

{How NOT To Poison Yourself & Others}

What are the primary causes for bitterness? It is not you being mistreated, or experiencing injustice, or the reality of undeserved or deserved suffering or circumstances, Instead, it is your _____ toward God {vertically} in failing to faith-rest in God's plan, promises, or provisions, or your _____ toward others whom you perceive have sinned or offended you, or your _____ as you have thought more highly of yourself than you ought to think. All this fails the grace of God.

A. The CURES of Bitterness. The answer involves utilizing the GRACE OF GOD. {Heb. 12:15}

PREVENTATIVELY:

- 1. By the grace of God, you must recognize the provision of the CROSS and your IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST (Rom. 6:1-10) which has become a positional reality to overcome the sin nature and any sins in your life. Then you need to daily RECKON BY FAITH that you have died to the sin nature's authority and are alive to God in Christ Jesus your Lord (6:11) and as a result now choose to PRESENT / YIELD yourself to the Lord to walk in newness of life under grace. (6:4, 12-14)**
- 2. By the grace of God, you must realize that you are INSUFFICIENT in yourself to produce practical love & righteousness in your life (Rom. 7:15-25) so as to depend upon the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT to enable the fruit of the Holy Spirit to occur in your life toward God and others. (Rom. 8)**
- 3. By the grace of God, you must learn to FAITH-REST in God's PLAN, PROVISIONS, PURPOSES, and PROMISES in your trials, including deserved & undeserved sufferings (Gen.50:20; Rom. 8:28; James 1:2-7; Hebrews 4)**
- 4. By the grace of God, you must be willing to CHOOSE to GRACIOUSLY FORGIVE the person who sinned against you because GOD was willing because of JESUS CHRIST to have forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:30-32)**

CORRECTIVELY

- 1. By the grace of God, you must honestly and humbly _____ the reality & seriousness of your bitterness when it occurs & desire to be forgiven or delivered from it. (Eph. 4:30; James 3:13-18)**
- 2. By the grace of God, you must be willing to _____ to God that your bitterness is _____ {without excuses} in order to walk in the light and have fellowship with God and then you can faith-rest in God's promise of _____ regardless of what the other person may or may not have done to you, or how they are presently relating to you. (Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:9; Matt. 7:1-5; Acts 8:22-24)**

3. By the grace of God, you must be willing to _____ to graciously _____ the offending person because _____ was willing because of _____ to have forgiven you so as to release them from their guilt and hand them over to the Lord, leaving all _____ to Him. {Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:17-21}

PRACTICALLY

1. By God's grace, forgiveness & resolution of bitterness ...

- Should be done _____ even before the offender has apologized if he / she ever does. (Mark 11:25; Ephesians 4:32)
- Should be done _____ in keeping short accounts, though recognizing that feelings may take time to recover. (Luke 17:3-4; Acts 7:54-60)
- May involve a _____ by the offended as to the reality and hurt of the offense. (Lk.17:3a)
- Will require _____ by the offender in order for _____ to occur (Luke 17:3-4; 2 Cor. 7:11) and maybe _____ by the offender if needed (Philemon 8-22)
- May need to be done _____ depending on the number of offenses and the nature of the relationship. (Luke 17:4a; Matt. 18:21-22)
- Will need to be done _____ when you remember that _____ has _____ on the basis of God's undeserved grace and the finished work of Jesus Christ. (Eph. 4:32)

2. By the grace of God, you can utilize the PRACTICAL COUNSEL OF JESUS CHRIST toward the offender to bless the offender and to actually benefit you. (Matt. 5:43-44) What does this involve? You can choose to _____ others, even your enemies, _____ those who curse you, _____ to those who hate you, _____ for those who spitefully use and persecute you. And if this is possible toward your enemies by God's grace, how much more possible toward your friends, family, etc.?

- A Parable to Remember {Matthew 18:23-35}
- Some closing applications: When it comes to bitterness...
 - 1) Let _____ reveal it to you and when He does, ADMIT YOUR SIN regardless of your feelings or justifications based upon what you perceive God or others did to you.
 - 2) Let _____ remove it by FORGIVING others because God for Christ's sake has forgiven you or by FAITH-RESTING in God's plan & promises to you like Romans 8:28, James 1:2-4, 2 Cor. 12:9-10, etc.
 - 3) Let _____ rejoice your heart with God's love & gracious dealings with you. (2 Cor. 5:14-15)