

Powerful Prayers, Pt. 6
Pray For Those Who Persecute You
Pastor TW Norman
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Matthew 5:43-44 (NKJV) *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 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."*

Truth: Praying like Jesus instructed has the power to break spiritual chains in order to set you free from offense and pain caused by the actions/words of others.

1. Jesus Modeled It Perfectly

Luke 23:34a (NLT) *"Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.'"*

Praying for those who hurt us:

- Breaks retaliation
- Keeps our hearts clean
- Keeps pain from turning into poison

You cannot carry bitterness and peace at the same time.

2. Pray for Those Who Have Wronged You

Acts: 7:60 (NLT) *"He fell to his knees, shouting, 'Lord, don't charge them with this sin!' And with that, he died."*

Acts 8:1 (NLT) *"Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen."*

3. Forgiveness Produces Freedom

Genesis 50:20 (NLT) *"You intended to harm me; but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."*

What Unforgiveness Does:

- Keeps you tied to the moment of hurt, offense and pain
- Creates bonds you cannot get free from
- Imprisons you to the enemies' tactics
- Keeps you in a place of disobedience and sin

Forgiveness DOES NOT:

- negate or minimize what has happened
- wash away the need for justice
- restore relationships or trust
- sweep betrayal, offense, hurt or pain away

What Forgiveness Does:

- sets you free from the offense of others
- releases the enemies hold on your thoughts and mind
- brings healing to your heart and emotions
- literally breaks the chains the enemy has used to keep you from all God has for you

4. Restoration is the Result of Prayer

Job 42:10 (NLT) *“When Job prayed for his friends the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before.”*

Romans 8:28 (NLT) *“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”*

5. Obstacles That Keep Us From Praying

A. We believe punishment to be our responsibility.

Romans 12:19 (NKJV) *“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay’ says the Lord.”*

B. Pride wants to hold on to the offense, creating for you a false identity.

Sad reality: some people have been hurt for so long, they no longer know who they are without the wound.

C. We do not understand the power of these prayers.

6. What this Powerful Prayer Produces

A. Freedom

John 8:36 (NIV) *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

B. Healing

When you cut the ties through forgiveness, healing can begin.

C. Deliverance

Mercy is stronger than hatred; Forgiveness is stronger than offense; Prayer is stronger than persecution.

What you refuse to release may be the very place your freedom is being delayed.