

## **I. Review**

### **A. Regeneration Defined**

- 1. Restore – Revive – Rebuild**
- 2. To bring forth again**

### **B. Previous Sessions**

- 1. God Delights in Restoring, Rebuilding, and Reviving**
- 2. Our Cooperation is Required**
- 3. Believe for Resurrection Power**
- 4. Receiving a Rhema Word – Life in the Word**
- 5. Moving from Logos to Rhema**
- 6. Expect Regeneration**
- 7. Rebuilding that Which is Broken**
- 8. Keys to Rebuilding After a Tragedy**
- 9. Facing the Opposition that Occurs When Rebuilding**
  - Rebuilding is never easy. There will be opposition.
  - Satan doesn't want you to move forward with your life.
  - What do you do when you caused the storm that produced destruction in your life?
    - 1) You must receive God's forgiveness where sin is involved.
    - 2) You must forgive yourself!

## II. What do you do when others are responsible for your storm?

### A. Forgiving the unforgivable?

*The Bible teaches forgiveness on every level. For us to move forward forgiveness of those who caused our pain is necessary.*

1. **Unforgivable – Dictionary – something was done to you that was so bad that it is unable to be forgiven or excused.**

The act was inexcusable, unpardonable and/or unjustifiable.

2. **My personal feelings when this assignment was given to me for this message.**

- a. I know people who have experienced things by the hands of others that no human being should never have to go through.
- b. While I am moved with compassion toward those people, I do not know what it is like to walk in their shoes. I have not been through what they have been through.
- c. Personal – When assessing my feelings, there are some things that I have watched people go through that I do not know if I could forgive the person that caused it.
- d. Personal prayer – Lord, I know you want me to deal with this subject, but Lord you are going to have to help me because I don't have the answers in regard to forgiveness on such a level as this.

### B. Is it always possible to forgive?

1. **It must be possible to forgive because God commanded us to in His Word.**

- a. **Luke 11:2-4 (NKJV)** – <sup>2</sup>*So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>3</sup>Give us day by day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one*
- b. **Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV)** – <sup>14</sup>*“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”*

- c. **Mark 11:25-26 (NKJV)** – <sup>25</sup>“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup>But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”
  
2. **Whatever God tells us to do, He will supply the grace and power to perform.**
  - a. **Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** – *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*
  - b. There is grace to help us forgive those who have caused the storm in our life.
  - c. The only way to forgive those who seem unforgivable is to get in the presence of the Lord and receive the supernatural power of grace to do what God has told us to do.

### III. Understanding Forgiveness

#### A. What forgiveness is not!

1. **Forgiveness is not a feeling or emotion.**
  - a. Forgiveness is a choice.
  - b. For the Christian who is commanded to forgive, forgiveness is an act of faith. (Faith is not a feeling).
  - c. If you are basing forgiveness upon a feeling, you may never get there.
  
2. **Forgiveness is not reconciliation!**
  - a. Sometimes relationships are reconciled.
  - b. Many times, there will be no reconciliation when a person has produced a deep hurt in your life.
  - c. I can forgive a person and never be reconciled to fellowship with them.
  
3. **Forgiveness does not heal everything in a moment.**

When we make the choice to forgive, we may have to make this declaration repeatedly.

4. **Forgiveness is not forgetting what happened.**
  - a. One of the reasons some people are reluctant to forgive is because they believe in forgiving the offender, they are forgetting the act that was performed against them.
  - b. It is impossible to wipe your mind completely free of the memory of what occurred. However, it is possible to retain the memory of the event without allowing the memory to take control of your life.
  
5. **Forgiving is not excusing nor condoning the offense.**

Forgiveness is putting the consequences of other's offense/sin in God's hands.

**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. What is Forgiveness?**

1. **Psychologist definition:** A conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness.
  
2. **Bible Definitions: Forgive – Gr – to send away – to let go – to disregard – to leave and not discuss now – to give up a debt – to give up a thing to a person – to leave and go away from one in order to go to another place. To leave one by not taking him as a companion**
  - a. Completely dismiss, permanently send away, to give up the right to go back into the past and bring it up again.
  - b. To let it go – (The supreme example of the forgiveness of God in regard to us.)

### **C. Forgiveness is a release.**

- 1. The majority of offenses come through those who are connected to us.**
- 2. In the case of divorce and other relational offenses, the fact that the person is responsible for a great storm in your life is proof that they had a strong connection to you. You were connected! *You are connected.***
- 3. If you experienced a storm as the result of someone you did not know prior to the offense they caused, you still became connected to that person through the offense they created. *You are connected.***
- 4. While the offense/storm may have physically separated you, you are still connected to that person through the memories and emotions that are attached to what they did. *As much as you do not want to hear it, you are still attached!***
- 5. The genuine release comes through forgiveness.**
  - a. Forgiveness is to release.
  - b. Whatever I do not release, I am still attached to.  
*You want to be free from that person, yet your unforgiveness is keeping you attached to them.*
  - c. When I release them, I have actually release me.  
*Most people think forgiveness is to release the one who hurt them, it is actually to release themselves from the one who hurt them.*
  - d. Forgiveness expanded definition: *To leave and go away in order to go to another place.*
  - e. Through forgiveness, I am leaving them, so that I may focus my attention on rebuilding my life and going to another season where they will not be present.

**6. Forgiveness is for you!**

- a. Does forgiveness actually do to benefit the person you are forgiving?
  - *In some cases, it is beneficial to the offender.*  
*There are some people who desire to be forgiven.*
  - *IN many cases, it is of no value to the offender because they have moved on and have no guilt over what they have done.*
- b. Sometimes it benefits the offender, but it will always benefit you!  
**Mark 11:25-26 (NKJV)** – <sup>25</sup>“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup>But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”
  - In this passage Jesus had been explaining to the disciples how to use their faith to move mountains.
  - His instruction included how to pray in faith.
  - He is warning them that unforgiveness will hinder their prayers and faith.
  - When He instructs them to forgive, he is revealing a benefit to them, not to their offenders.

**7. Forgiveness will take your life forward and allow you to rebuild.**

**8. Unforgiveness is a thief – a life stealer!**

*A refusal to forgive blocks God’s operation in your life to take you forward.*

**IV. Closing**

**A. Forgiveness is releasing yourself so you can leave the prison of past hurt and move forward.**

**B. God can take an awful experience and make you more than you would have ever been before!**

1. **You can take the good memories of your past into your new season.**
2. **You cannot take offense into your new season.**

***Offense will keep you from ever getting to the new season.***