

FORGIVENESS AND FAITH

INTRO

We need faith to receive from God and to please God. God has dealt to every Christian the measure of faith and He intended for it to work for us. Faith, though, works by certain principles. Galatians 5:6 says faith works by love and one of the greatest acts of love is to forgive in the midst of personal conflict.

Mark 11:22-26

I. Faith Works By Saying

- A. Mark 11:23 whosoever shall say... but shall believe those things which he saith...
...he shall have whatsoever he saith.
 - Your words express your "will" of what you believe.
- B. 2 Cor. 4:13 – Spirit of faith believes and speaks.

II. Faith Works By Praying

- A. Mark 11:24 ...when ye pray, believe...
 - Prayer doesn't cause faith to work but faith causes prayer to work.
- B. Rom. 10:8-10 Faith is in two places – our heart and our mouth.

III. Faith Works By Forgiving

- A. Mark 11:25-26 "When ye stand praying forgive"
 - The best time to forgive is at the time of the offence.
 - Don't allow unforgiveness to remain beyond the time you stand.
 - Forgiveness causes your faith to work in prayer
 - Forgiveness of others offences causes God to release you of your offences.
- B. Forgiveness is to release or dismiss:
 - 1. Release others from your personal judgement
 - 2. Release others from your personal vengeance
 - 3. Release others from your personal predictions
 - 4. Forgiveness is release of what is owed or the obligation. The obligation can be of what should have been done or the obligation can be of what shouldn't have been done.
 - Forgiveness is release of the obligation, "You don't owe me and I'll not make you pay."
- C. Unforgiveness, then, is a refusal to release
 - Unforgiveness hurts us more than the one we refuse to forgive.
 - Unforgiveness is the beginning of the destruction of a relationship.
- D. Mark 11:25-26 Our refusal to forgive (release others) blocks the release of God's forgiveness to us.
 - Our relationship to the Father couldn't exist or continue without forgiveness from Him. Through forgiveness our relationship is maintained. In like manner, we need forgiveness to maintain our relationship to our mate, children, brothers, sisters, etc.