

# FORGIVENESS AND YOUR WILL

## INTRO

We can't make it through this life without God's forgiveness for us, but we cannot have His forgiveness when we refuse to forgive. In the midst of personal conflict it's not always so easy nor do we always feel like forgiving. Forgiveness, though, is by choice not feelings. We can either choose to forgive or choose not to forgive, but our "will" is involved in both.

### I. Signs And Symptoms Of Unforgiveness.

"Before we take the cure, lets see if we have the disease."

#### A. Signs.

1. Unforgiveness always keeps score (Lk. 15:29).
2. Unforgiveness always boasts of its own record (Lk. 15:29).
3. Unforgiveness always complains (Lk. 15:29).
4. Unforgiveness always divides and separates (Lk. 15:30).
5. Unforgiveness always accuses and exposes (Lk. 15:30).
6. Unforgiveness always is angry and envious (Lk. 15:30).

#### B. Symptoms.

1. You can't stand to be around certain people.
2. You want to strike out at people when certain subjects are discussed.
3. You lose your temper over little things and over react.
4. You struggle with guilt over things that happened in the past.
5. You find yourself with ill will, bad feelings, and possibly hatred toward those you should love the most.

### II. Things To Know To Help Us To Choose To Forgive.

A. Your "will" is involved in both forgiveness and unforgiveness.

1. Your "will" can go towards choosing to release or forgive.
2. Your "will" can go towards choosing to not release or unforgiveness.

B. To help your "will" to choose to release realize:

1. Unforgiveness blocks the release of God's forgiveness in your own life (Mk. 11:25,26).
2. Unforgiveness puts you in personal torment (Mtt. 18:32-35, Mtt. 5:25-26).
3. Unforgiveness gives satan an advantage over you (2 Cor. 2:10-11).
  - a. satan, the one who seduces, sifts, beguiles, oppresses, deceives, torments, entices, tempts, hinders, confuses, binds, afflicts, buffets, blinds, devours, lies, vexes, takes captive, possesses, deceives, is given an advantage.
  - b. unforgiveness is a satanic device.
4. Unforgiveness opens you up to physical and emotional trouble (Pr. 11:17).
  - a. There is healing in forgiveness (Lk. 5:17-26).
  - b. There is forgiveness in healing (James 5:14-15).
5. Unforgiveness can cause you in anger to say things that lead to judgment from men or God (Matt. 5:22).
  - a. Raca stands for words in the category that would offend men.
  - b. Fool stands for words in the category that would offend God.
6. Unforgiveness reduces your spiritual and supernatural walk to a natural one (I Cor. 3:1-3).
7. Unforgiveness can cause bitter roots that make you mean, mad, complain, and pout (Eph. 4:31).
8. Unforgiveness (which is sin) hinders prayer (Ps. 66:18), giving (I Cor. 13:3), and whatever we offer to God in worship (Mtt. 5:28).