

## Scripture of the Quarter

*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”* Luke 23:34 NKJV

## Unforgiveness: The Poison That Is Killing The Saints Of The Church

Unforgiveness is one of Satan’s most destructive forces, individually, collectively, and in all levels of society. To include marriage, the family, friends, (Christian brothers and sisters), business, ministry, government, and international relations, etc.

We, as Christians, are supposed to follow the example set by our savior Jesus Christ. I can’t imagine receiving a beating as horrific as what Jesus received, at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Jesus did not say an unkind word to the Roman soldiers that beat Him. He was like a lamb going to the slaughter, but He said **“Father forgive them.”** This is what the Lord put on my heart to write about in this newsletter. So many Christians today are walking around in unforgiveness. We all must realize that if we are holding offenses, against our Christian brothers and sisters we are in severe trouble with the Lord! Jesus said this

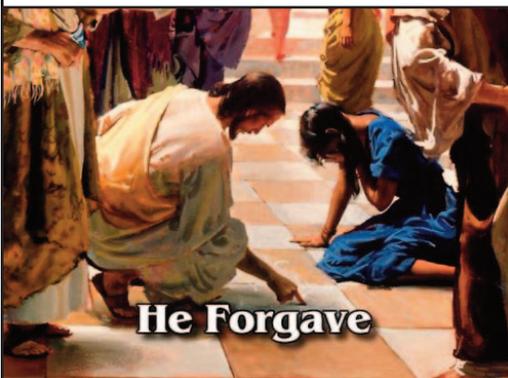
in Mark 11:25-26 <sup>V25</sup>**“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him that your Father in heaven may also forgive you of your trespasses.”** <sup>V26</sup>**“But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”** I would like to quote the amplified Bible **Matthew 6:12 and 14.** It reads; <sup>V12</sup>**“And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven (left, remitted, and let go of the debts, and have given up resentment against) our debtors”.** <sup>V14</sup>**“For if you forgive people their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins, leaving them, letting them go, and giving up resentment], your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”** Now here is the situation, you say you have forgiven a brother of his trespass. You walk into church on Sunday and go to sit down at a pew, but see the brother you say you have forgiven sitting there, and you go to another pew to avoid him. The question is—did you really forgive him or are you holding on to resentment? The answer is simple—you did not truly forgive him! Now let me remind you of something. Forgive **IS NOT AN OPTION, JESUS SAID YOU MUST!**

I find it amazing that people who were offended back in 1998 are still living in unforgiveness. The sad thing is, the other



person who offended them has moved on with their life. Do you realize unforgiveness can cause physical and emotional problems? Unforgiveness is sin, and sin separates you from God. Let’s say the Rapture occurs and you are living in unforgiveness and holding a grudge. You will not go! Why? The rapture is reserved for **faithful overcomers**, according to the Bible. What is an overcomer? It is someone who has overcome the flesh, world, and the devil. I wrote about this in a previous newsletter. As I stated before, living in unforgiveness is a sin which separates you from God. People in churches today, do not realize if you are living in unforgiveness, your salvation is at risk. I can not stress this one point enough—**forgiving your brother or sister is not an option.**

Now let’s look at what the Lord says about being offended in **Matthew 24:10-13 NKJV.** <sup>V10</sup>**“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”** <sup>V11</sup>**Then many false prophets rise up and deceive many.** <sup>V12</sup>**And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.** <sup>V13</sup>**But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”**



I would like to discuss the word *'endures'* in verse 13. Word studies are very important when studying God's Word. In the Greek language, the word for endures is hypomeno—which means to endure, endureth, and to take it patiently. What is Jesus telling us when He says take it patiently? It means we should not be offended let it roll off of us as water off of a ducks back. Word studies put the context of the scripture in proper perspective. Some of you may have never heard this interpretation before, and that is all right. If you go back and read the scriptures in **Matthew 24:10-13** you will agree He is talking about offenses.

**Now we must talk about the fruit that unforgiveness produces:**

Unforgiveness produces the fruit of anger, hate, bitterness, and resentment towards the person who offended you. Again, the person who offended you has moved on with their lives and there you are stuck in unforgiveness.

I would like to discuss each one of these fruits beginning with ANGER. In **Ecclesiastes 7:9** it reads **"For anger rests in the bosom of fools."** We all know what happens when we act foolishly, we do things we regret later and can hurt people we love. Now let's



discuss HATE. In **Matthew 5:44** Jesus says **"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."** An angry person says and does things which are irrational. In my 60 plus years on this earth, I have observed anger elevate into violence which ended in the loss of a human life! Bitterness can develop into a bitter root which is a very serious problem. The person who develops the root of bitterness becomes hateful, unforgiving, becomes resentful, and loses their joy. If someone has the root of bitterness it is very difficult to break, as a spirit can attach itself to this individual. Bitterness is a principality spirit. **Ephesians 6:12** **"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."** Another thing that happens when we are in unforgiveness is the thought of getting even with the person who hurt us. This is called retaliation—another fruit of a bitter root. King Solomon gave us a word of wisdom concerning an offended brother or sister in **Proverbs 18:19** **"A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city. And contentions are like strong bars on a castle."** This is wisdom we should all follow.

Unforgiveness is not only a sin, but it puts you in bondage. Bondage causes a very serious problem, to all who call themselves Christians. **Matthew 18:18** reads **"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."** Jesus makes it very clear that if you are bound by unforgiveness the heavens are closed to your

prayer, healing, hedge of protection, and your ability to prosper as He can not bless you if you are in unforgiveness.

We must understand how important it is to forgive anyone who has offended you in any way. We all know this is a choice, like anything else. I pray, all who are living in offense, forgive those who have offended you **TODAY!** By forgiving, you let the other person off your hook, but they are not off God's hook. You must trust that God will deal with the person justly and fairly, something you simply can not do. You might say, *"But you don't know how much this person hurt me!"* You're right. I don't, but Jesus does; and He tells you to forgive. And don't you see? Until you let go of your anger and hatred, the person is still hurting you. You can't turn back and change the past but you can be free from it. You can stop the pain, but there is only one way to do it — **FORGIVE!**

Please say this prayer with me and be set free today.

*Lord, I choose to forgive* (name the person) *for* (say what they did to hurt you) *even though it made me feel* (share the painful feelings).

After you have forgiven each person for all the offenses that come to your mind and after you have honestly expressed how you felt, conclude your forgiveness of that person by praying aloud:

*Lord, I choose not to hold any of these things against* (name) *any longer. I thank you for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness toward* (name) *. I now ask you to bless* (name) *. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*

