

Having Hope – Part 4

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- Having hope requires having faith
- Faith's greatest hinderance is unforgiveness
- The health and strength of every relationship and every purpose of your life, hinges on your ability to successfully do this one thing

1. The impact on your faith

Mark 11:22,24-25 (NKJV) - So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you, your trespasses.

- The reason unforgiveness is the greatest hinderance to faith is because it impacts the heart.

Romans 10:10 - For with the heart one believes...

2. The impact on your personal life

- Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to get sick
- Unforgiveness creates bitterness

Luke 17:1 - Then Jesus said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! "

Hebrews 12:15 - looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, so keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time and many will become defiled.

Acts 8:23 (NIV) - For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.

There are 3 kinds of offenses or traps

- Real – someone has been unjustly treated
- Perceived – wrongly processing the interaction and information
- Borrowed – taking the offense of others onto yourself

3. The power to forgive

Matthew 18:21-22 (NJKV) - Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the

kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

- the servant owed the king 10,000 talents
- the other servant owed him 100 denarii
- one denarius is one day's wages
- 6,000 denarii = one talent
- it would have taken the servant 164,383 years to work off his debt to the king