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“I forgive you”



As we understood yesterday words have a powerful effect, idle words are serious business, and we must carefully think before we speak, mean what we say and say what we mean! Far too often when someone asks for forgiveness for something we idly tell them “I forgive you” without ever giving thought to what we are saying are what they are asking. Forgiveness is a big deal and is something we must daily fight to ensure we are giving to all those who have wronged us, even those who have not asked for forgiveness! How important is forgiveness? **For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew Chapter 6 verse 14-15 KJV)** - “neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”, forgiveness is critical, if we refuse to forgive our brothers and sisters of their sins and pain they've caused us how in the world can we ever expect to be forgiven? The scripture teaches us: **Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew Chapter 5 verse 7 KJV)** - as you enter into day 18 of the 30 day challenge are you being merciful with your spouse and your children? Is it time to forgive a grudge? Is it time to let it go? You are never guaranteed tomorrow to give the forgiveness you should give today, let it go! Don't let the devil hold it over your head anymore!

Its hard to forgive those who have truly caused us pain and suffering but we are called to do it not for their sake but for ours. God did not send His son Jesus Christ to forgive our sins for His sake but for ours! We must honor the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ by honoring His commandments and loving our neighbor as our self. Forgiveness is not always easy and does not always happen over night but we must make a relentless effort to hand out mercy as freely as God has to us. God does not command us to do outlandish crazy things to receive grace, He only commands us: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John Chapter 3 verse 16 KJV)** – since we are freely given grace and mercy by the Lord do we hold unrealistic expectations over our spouse and family? Do we say “I would forgive them if they would only do...”, its time to stop and let it go, it has divided you far too long and caused too much damage. Forgive them that your Father in heaven may forgive you!

Daily Devotional

by: Pastor Richard Webster (abcpastor@bellsouth.net)

Being Faithful

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:23)

If a marriage is going to be successful, it will take a commitment to being faithful. We can never take a day off, but must renew our faithfulness every day. An Argentinean man named Miguel Guzman adopted a German Shepherd named Capitan for his teenage son. But when Miguel passed away, Capitan ran away. The family searched for a week and finally found the dog. He was standing guard beside Miguel's grave. The mystery is how he found it. He was never taken there. Workers reported seeing Capitan wandering all over the cemetery until he found his master's grave. The family tried repeatedly to bring him home but he just kept going back. By the way, Miguel died in 2006. Capitan has been watching faithfully over his master's grave every day for six straight years. Can you imagine how successful our marriages would be if we had this type of commitment to faithfulness? Just as God's faithfulness is new every morning, so should our faithfulness to our spouse be. Let's ask God to help us become more faithful and find ways to put faithfulness into action.

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

In the storms of life the waves constantly batter against our foundation and after years and years of storms our foundation can erode away completely or simply become warped but the fact is that after years of relentless attacks we can become tired and weary. As you enter into day 18 of the 30 day challenge it may be time to re-access our foundation! What is the foundation in our life? **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew Chapter 16 verse 18 KJV)** – the rock, the foundation is not Peter yet the proclamation that Peter made: you are the Christ! Jesus the Christ is the promised Messiah and our faith and foundation must be upon Him, we must trust in the Lord, we must faithfully walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, we must relentlessly seek to know Him more and to live our life for Him and I guarantee you as you struggle more and more to live your life for Him the storms of life will increase, the hardships will not cease, and the enemy will not tire, but if you are not careful... you will! We must check and recheck the base of our faith ensuring the foundation remains strong and secure!

This week we are talking about “forgiveness and trust” and you must wonder how the first paragraph ties in to this message and the truth is that if we understood the importance of the foundation of our faith we would know that forgiveness is not a suggestion, forgiveness is not something we are pleaded with to do, forgiveness even at the most basic level of our faith is something we are COMMANDED to do. Think for just a second about all the sinful things you have ever done or said, all the pain you have caused in your lifetime, all the unchristian things that you have done and tell me, has Christ not forgiven them all? **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John Chapter 1 verse 9 KJV)** – notice the scripture does not say “He will forgive the small missteps” it says He will forgive ALL our sins! Jesus Christ came and died that we could have true freedom, true forgiveness, and true peace through our relationship with Him. As He died a desperately painful death that we may have peace have you been obeying His commands? Was not His sacrifice greater than any pain you have endured? Was not His mercy and grace that He has poured out upon you worth anything you have endured? LET IT GO!

As we discovered in the parable about the Lord who forgave his servants debts only for the servant not to forgive his fellow servant we must understand this is eternally important. It is not only something that affects us in this life, as we plainly see in His words: **But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew Chapter 6 verse 15 KJV)** – besides not being forgiven for our sins is there anything else forgiveness does for us? It allows us to grow! It allows us to understand what Christ really did for us! It allows us to know that regardless of what we've done the fact that Christ could forgive us is a powerfully important truth! It WILL set us free! Have you met a person who is always worried and mad? Someone who is angry and mistrusting? Someone who remembers someone who did them wrong a year ago? Remember the words of Christ to Martha: **And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. (Luke Chapter 10 verse 41-42 KJV)** – as

you enter in to day 18 it is time to start looking at what is important in life. Are you getting anything out of holding that pain and anger inside? How free would you feel if you could just let it go? Control what you can and give the rest to Christ! Worry about yourself and your relationship with Him, worry about glorifying Him and knowing Him more, trust that once you seek Him with all your heart that the scripture will be fulfilled: **And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. (Jeremiah Chapter 29 verse 13 KJV).**

Today is a new day, a day in which you understand that powerful sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a day in which you seek to give forgiveness to all those who have hurt you and sinned against you, not for them, but for your savior! For yourself! Today is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Let us thank Him for His mercy and grace and show our appreciation by putting it all at His feet and depending on His strength and wisdom to give the forgiveness that we so desperately need to share! Amen.

Meet the family

We will soon be hearing from the second family in the “meet the family” section and I pray that you would ponder in your heart God's vision for your own family. Think to yourself today, what has God done in my life? What has He done in the lives of my family? Praise Him and thank Him for every blessing and every second that He has always been by your side! Amen.

Prayer Suggestions

Today before you pray I would like you to understand the beautiful promise the Lord gives us about our prayer: **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew Chapter 7 verse 7-8 KJV)** – today God is giving you the opportunity to demonstrate His power and grace... while you take it? Bow your head, humble yourself before Him, open your heart and your mouth in prayer!

Today pray for:

- **God to give you understanding of how precious His gift of salvation has been in your life**
- **God to give you strength to forgive and forget those who have hurt you**
- **God to continue healing in your marriage and in your family**
- **God to give you the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit**
- **God to continue to move in your home and in your life**

About

The My Emanuel 30 day challenge came about through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and we pray that God would be glorified and praised as a direct result of this program. It is the deepest desire of all those involved with this program that the healing grace of Jesus Christ would be abundantly felt throughout the families with a member participating in the challenge. The program is a direct result of the power of the Lord and a demonstration of His wisdom and foresight in bringing both the paths of Pastor Richard Webster, myself, and all those who have helped with the program together in a way to use us and our individual talents to profess the wonderful Good News of His salvation and wonderful grace, mercy, and abundant love.

Throughout our lives we have seen and directly felt the chaos and tragedy caused in the destruction of divorce. In interacting with brothers and sisters from all walks of life we have seen again and again the damage caused by the wedge the enemy drives in between a man and wife. It has been our greatest displeasure to see the tragedy, pain, suffering, and grief caused by the life altering decision in which so many couples make out of anger only to realize later that not only was it not what they wanted but so far from what they needed they couldn't even remember what they were separating for. It is our desire for all couples to understand the truth, God desires marriage to be a life long commitment and made us for this exact purpose: **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis Chapter 2 verse 24 KJV)** – to become one flesh as we will examine later on through the program is a physical alteration that to reverse would be a mutilation and a physical destruction of ones own flesh and is the furthest thing from God's desire for any family. It is our dearest hope that God will reveal His glory and that Jesus Christ will pour out His grace upon all those who participate in this program regardless of the purpose. The truth is that Jesus Christ is not “a hope” He is the ONLY HOPE and the only way for families to make it through the stress and destruction of today's society is through keeping Him always at the center.

Pastor Richard Webster is the Pastor of Adairsville Baptist Church in Adairsville, Georgia. Brother Richard has been a powerful influence in my own walk with the Lord and I pray that as God has used this brother for His glory and has shared much wisdom to me through him that you would pay special attention to the message God has blessed this brother to share. Pastor Webster is both a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a friend, and a pastor who is determined to serve the Lord and bring glory and honor to our Savior. I pray that you would understand that this brother has seen first hand the destruction of divorce, the pain and suffering that comes at the hands of the evil of the enemy as satan tries to relentlessly destroy families. Know that the daily devotionals are the ultimate inspiration of Jesus Christ and may the Lord be seen through every word.

It feels strange even now trying to write about myself, my name is Daniel Higginbotham and simply put I am a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my desire and hope that the Lord God Jehovah would make His presence known and that you would feel the Holy Spirit interacting and interceding in your life. I thank God for this opportunity and I will pray for you and your family over this next 30 days that God would reveal the beautiful truth to you as He has me: **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV).**