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Forgive AND forget

How many times do you hear someone say “I’ll forgive them but I won’t forget”? As you enter in to day 19 of the 30 day challenge I pray you would understand that it is critical to our marriage, to our family, and all of life’s relationships to learn we must not only forgive but also forget! Trust is so critical to the success of marriages and I have been touched in my walk with Christ, slowly God has given me peace in my own heart which has helped me to understand that through all of life’s trials and tribulations that I must trust those that I love. I cannot imagine how it must feel to stress and obsess over what our spouse is or isn’t doing, what our children are or are not doing, Jesus Christ has given us freedom in all things: **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV)** – what are you worrying about that you need to let go today? Does not the scripture say: **Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? (Matthew Chapter 6 verse 27 KJV).**

We must understand that God’s plan is the best plan for our life, Jesus Christ is THE WAY and we must live our life to seek that way everyday. Let me ask you this question, by worrying yourself to death about a situation can you change how other people will act or what they will do? Can you force change in the hearts of those you love? Can you make them do what you want? The answer is: no. So stop worrying about what you can’t control, concentrate instead on your relationship with the Lord, concentrate on serving the Lord and allowing the light of Christ to shine through every day in your life! Concentrate on being the best husband, the best wife, or the best whatever so that at the end of the day you can lay your head down and truly know you have fulfilled the scripture that reminds us: **Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians Chapter 10 verse 31 KJV)** – do everything you do for His glory, for His praise, for His honor, and to demonstrate in your life the power and mercy the Lord has shown you. Know the truth: we are not justified by works but by the grace of Jesus Christ. If we accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and savior and simply lived to obey Him our lives would be a much greater place, but we must remember even know we are not justified by works that does not mean our works will not be judged... **Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. (James Chapter 2 verse 18 KJV)** – as you enter in to day 19 STOP WORRYING SO MUCH! Let go and let God show you the way! Trust Him, follow Him, obey Him! Amen.

Daily Devotional

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

Bad Habits

A little leaven leavens the whole lump. (Galatians 5:9)

Over the last twenty years, I have had the privilege of coaching my kids' teams in many different sports. One of the most important things I have learned to watch for is the development of bad habits. A bad habit starts out small, but grows and grows. It grows so much that before long mechanics are messed up and it is hard to do things right. In order to remove a bad habit, you have to go back to basic fundamentals and rebuild. In our marriages many times the little things have grown until they have our whole marriage in disarray. If we want to repair our marriage, we have to return to the basic fundamentals of what made our marriage strong. We have to start with our relationship with Christ and start our rebuilding process there. It does take time, patience, and work, but the end results will have our marriage swinging right again. What bad habits are you willing to admit today?

Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham (dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com)

Over the past two days we have looked at forgiveness and the critical importance of forgiving those who have hurt us. Knowing that not only is it required by the Lord but also that it will free us from the yolk the devil places on those who refuse to forgive we must understand that forgiveness is not simply for the sake of the person who has wronged us, it is not simply because God has commanded it, but it is also imperative to creating and building trust in our marriage and in our relationships. Trust is the ingredient that so many families are desperately missing out on in this life, through hardships and pain, through temptations and falls we have created an environment in which a husband and wife can barely talk to one another much less trust their life to the other. Would you take a bullet for your spouse? Would you push your children out of front of a speeding car even if it meant your death? Do they know that? Actions always speak louder than words and it is imperative that we fight the enemy when he whispers in cowardice “what are they really doing”? The enemy desperately wants to destroy the trust in your marriage and in your family, trust is a critical component of our foundation and we must take it back from the hands of the coward.

“How in the world can I trust them after what they did?” What did they do? Haven't you forgiven them? Oh I see! You forgave them but you haven't forgot about it... have you really forgiven them? **I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. (Isaiah Chapter 43 verse 25 KJV)** – we are called to forgive our brothers and sisters and in my heart I know as God has forgiven us we must forgive those have sinned against us! We must FORGET! The blood of Jesus Christ did not simply make it so we could be in front of God but we wear His righteousness and our sins are FORGOTTEN! **He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah Chapter 7 verse 19 KJV)** – we are called to love as Christ has loved us, as we have already discussed we are called to love each other as Christ has loved the church, and in His love Christ has given us forgiveness and full redemption from sins through forgetting them... are you sure you have forgiven the wrong they have done in your life? Do you still bring it up? Do you through it up in their face when you argue? Do you think about it all the time? Do you stress and constantly worry that it will happen again? It may be time to look at your situation and pray that God would give you true forgiveness!

As you enter in to day 19 of the 30 day challenge I wonder, do you want healing? Do you need healing? Are you crying out that God would move mightily in your home? Do you desperately cry out to Him to make a way? To see the kingdom of God we must desperately seek Him, surrender, totally surrender everything to Him, we must understand that God can do mighty and powerful things in our lives but even as I still struggle with giving Him everything that is what we are called to do! There is a song I love that says “Christ will ask nothing of us but demand we give our all”, once you place your life and your salvation in His hands we must understand He has not done a half work. Jesus Christ did a full work on the cross, the scripture doesn't say “if the Son shall set you free you will be free from most everything”, it says: **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV)** – what do you need Christ to set you free from? I know even writing this now that I have struggled to let go of the greatest struggle in my life and

typing this now I pray God would give you and I both the strength to let it go! I can't overcome my problem by my own power... I've tried... I can't simply give it halfway to God and take it back because I fail, I must, you must, we all must give it to God totally! Have we begun to let Christ finish the work in our life?

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption (1 Corinthians Chapter 1 verse 30 KJV) – when we are born again we are fully forgiven of every sin we have, are, or will commit. Do not be misled in to thinking we have a blank check for grace is not cheap, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was poured out upon us from the cross at Calvary and we must treat it is it is, holy and priceless. HOWEVER throughout our life God will continue to teach us, guide us, edify (build) us up, and sanctify us. Today I wonder, are you truly ready to make some progress? Today are you ready to give it all to Christ? I know I am, I am tired of fighting and losing... won't you join me this day, day 19 of the 30 day challenge and cry out “Father, I fully surrender” remembering that actions speak louder than words: surrender to His saving grace.

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 strength to fully forgive those who have caused you pain and suffering
- God to help you to forget those things that have caused you pain and misery allowing you to forgive as He forgives
- God to help heal the wounds and brokenness in your marriage
- God to give you strength to surrender your life and every situation to Him
- God to give you strength to place your burdens at His feet that He may demonstrate the full work He has done

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).**