

Study Guide: "What If I Forgive?" 07-01-2012

Study: Colossians 3 "Rules for Holy Living:

Text: Matthew 18:15-35

Read Text: Discuss the implications of 18:35

Key Points

Many of the things that people consider impossible are really quite possible, quite do-able.....if we'll just apply the principles and promises of scripture.

To Do: Learn the 199 Promises of Scripture (Use for Devotions)

199 Promises of God *Barbour Publishing / 2007 / Paperback \$0.99*

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What if I let go of _____ habit? What would my life be like?

It's been said that harboring unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping it will kill your enemies. That's because when you hang on to unforgiveness, it hurts _____ more than it hurts anyone else.

If you're willing to put the principle of forgiveness into practice, you'll create a better life for yourself. How? First of all...

a.) You'll experience peace.

Can you describe a time of peace in your life when you felt God's presence? _____

If you are not there now, what has separated you from God.

There's a connection between forgiveness and peace. If there's no peace in your personal life, maybe it's because you have some unforgiveness in your heart.

b.) You'll find it easier to forgive yourself.

c.) You will experience the fullness of forgiveness.

"Forgive and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)

"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us." (Matthew 6:12)

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

There's a principle of reciprocity: you receive back what you _____.

When you hang on to unforgiveness, you're not just drinking poison in your relationships, you're drinking poison in your spiritual life.

Here are some things to remember in applying the principle of forgiveness.

1. You forgive as God has forgiven you.

Forgiving and forgetting is an intentional choice you make.

Understand that when you forgive someone, the objective is to let it go.

The objective is to never bring it up again. Because that's how God in Christ has forgiven you.

2. You forgive only who you need to forgive.

If there are people in conflict, and you're not directly involved in the problem or the solution, then it's not your job to sit in judgment.

3. You forgive face-to-face.

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you." (Matthew 18:15)

Have you forgiven people from their past. How did you go about doing this? _____

Would you share this message with a family member or friend?