

The Joy of Forgiveness – Pt. 2

The Process of Forgiveness

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

1. Review & Introductory Remarks.

In this message we are continuing to explore the joy that comes into our lives as a result of receiving God's forgiveness. As we saw in the previous message, one of the major contributing factors to many of life's problems and anxieties is guilt and not dealing with it properly. The focus of this message will be on how to properly deal with the sin in our lives and how to appropriate God's forgiveness.

Psalms 32:1-2 *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

- Walking in joy is one of the most essential ingredients that each one of us desires in life.
- The single most important ingredient in maintaining your spiritual joy is receiving God's forgiveness for your sins.
- The kind of joy as described in Psalm 16:11 can only be ours when we received God's forgiveness into our lives.

Psalms 16:11 *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

If we walk in a continued state of forgiveness we will maintain this level of joy in our lives. Who wouldn't want that!

One of the reasons many Christians fail to walk in the level of joy God desires for them is simply that they have un-confessed and un-repentant sin in their lives that God has not been able to forgive them for. The sin God cannot forgive is the sin that is un-confessed and repented of.

Acts 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

Again, the focus of this message will be taking a look at the process in which God's forgiveness takes place in our lives.

II. Three Major Elements of Forgiveness.

There are three major elements in appropriating God's forgiveness. They are conviction, confession and repentance.

1. The First Element: Conviction of Our Sins.

- **The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.**

John 16:7-8 *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸"And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:***

Psalms 51:5-6 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶Behold, **You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.***

We must be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to expose the truth of ourselves and our sin. There are negative areas in each one of our lives that we do not like owning up to.

We fail to walk in forgiveness and lack of joy many times because we have not owned up to our weaknesses and faults otherwise known as sin.

- **Common examples of sins Christians get caught up in:**

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Trouble in relationships – Are you owning your fault in them or are you blameshifting? | 5. Anger |
| 2. Failure as a husband and father or wife and mother | 6. Bitterness |
| 3. Lying | 7. Lust |
| 4. Envy | 8. Selfish ambition |
| | 9. hatred |
| | 10. Selfishness |
| | 11. Swearing and cursing |

These are just a few. I'm sure you can think of a few more.

If we never allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of the areas in our lives that are still carnal it's like getting a wax build up in your ears. As a result we will not be changing as God desires for us.

We must have the courage to own the truth no matter how frightening it may be. The courage to own it is what sets us free. If we fail to own it we live our lives in denial and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

The Holy Spirit works in many different ways in our lives to bring forth His conviction. We need to be open to the different ways in which He works.

- **Ways in which the Holy Spirit Convicts us of sin.**

A. He works through self examination. This process is known as falling on the Rock.

Matthew 21:44 *"And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."*

Psalms 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

B. He speaks and works through others.

Proverbs 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

C. He speaks and convicts through the preaching of the Word.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

D. He speaks and convicts through His still small voice.

Isaiah 30:21 *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.*

2. The Second Element: Confession of our Sins.

Once God has convicted us of our sin we then must be faithful to confess the sin before Him so that He can forgive us.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

3. The Third Element: Repentance of our Sins.

It is one thing to confess our sins before God, but it must also be followed with a sincere repentance of our sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

There is a certain heaviness that should come upon us when we are made aware of our sins. This is a godly sorrow over our offense to God, who has suffered the penalty for all of our sins.

Psalms 30:5 *For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.*

Acts 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

As we have seen, forgiveness comes through real repentance and repentance comes from having our sins exposed to us and then confessed. When we allow this process to be worked out in our lives, we will experience the same joy that David was crying out for in Psalm 51.