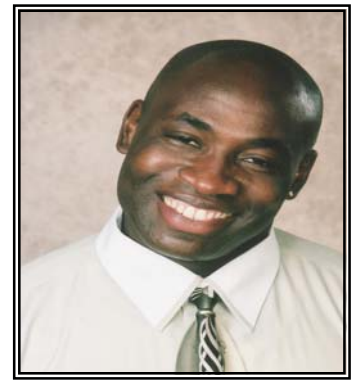




For God so loved the world He gave us

For God so loved the world He gave us



Ministers **U**ncompromisingly **S**ubmitted to **C**hrist in **L**ove and **E**nduring **S**ervanthood ©

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STRENGTHENING THE BODY OF CHRIST WITH THE LIFE CHANGING WORD OF GOD

FORGIVE AS YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN

Jesus Christ the promised seed of Abraham is the blessing. He is the blessed one who embodies all the blessings of God. Everything that God is and has and all that we have inherited from the hands of the Father is entirely in and through **Jesus Christ**. All that we have become and will ever be was and will be through and because of the blood of Jesus, the blood that speaks of mercy in forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus is the blessedness that opened up our lives to the realm of God's zoe life. And been recipients of the gift of forgiveness we are likewise commanded to walk in forgiveness, that is to give unto others that which we received from God which of course we didn't deserve. Forgiveness is an act of love and springs out of love. When I am walking in love towards others I will forgive even as I have been forgiven. The bible says that we are saved by grace through faith and we are to live by grace through faith and that my friend is inclusive of forgiveness. Grace is God's unmerited ability (favor) in you and faith is the substance you release in forgiveness. It has nothing to do with how you feel in the natural because it is supernatural.

The foundation or springboard of forgiveness is always encapsulated in giving something to another they don't deserve. **Forgiveness is a gift and you can never work for it.** Forgiveness is a fruit of grace, which is the fruit of the Spirit founded in love. On the cross in the midst of all the agony Jesus was experiencing both physically and spiritually Jesus by the grace of God cried out for forgiveness on our behalf by saying "**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...**"(Luke 23:33). "Them", is inclusive of you and me and the entire world. It was our sins that took and hung him on the cross. He became sin (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ. In God's righteousness there is forgiveness and In Christ we have become that very nature of God's righteousness in the new man (**Ephesians 4:24**). **The capacity to forgive has been deposited in us by the Holy Spirit who was given to us according to Romans 5:5** which says "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is **shed abroad** in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us". Love has been poured in our hearts and love forgives. Love in compassion reaches out to another and gives that which was undeservedly extended to him/her by saying from the heart "I forgive you".

When His disciples came to Him with the question "Lord teach us how to pray" (**Luke 11:1**) forgiving others who have trespassed/ sinned against us was one of the foundations Jesus laid in His exposition or teaching on prayer. There are seven elements or principles of revelation knowledge outlined and seven is the number of completion. The implication is that if you live your life by these seven-revelation knowledge your life will be complete or come to maturity In Him. The Lord's teaching begins with a revelation and

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acknowledgement of relationship “Our Father”. Part of the revelation that Jesus came to bring is the revelation of the heart of God wanting to be Father to humanity through Jesus Christ. Fatherhood (through the blood of Jesus) is the foundation of our relationship with God almighty and Fatherhood, thus son ship unveils another whole dimension of inheritance by virtue of that blood relationship. If you are born again you need to know and stand on the revelation of God almighty as your Father who wants to be intimately involved in every minute detail of your life. From Fatherhood He then proceeds to the second element, worship “Hallowed be thy name”. And before I proceed may I say that God is not just desirous of and worthy of worship. Rather He desires relational worship. Our worship of the Father should come from a position of knowing that He is our Father and yes our God. God is worthy of worship by virtue of been the creator God almighty. Worship of God almighty is an honor reserved only for redeemed humans or sons or children of God. True worship is born of The Spirit and unbelievers don’t have the Spirit of God because Jesus said that those who worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Third is a revelation of the kingdom of God and God’s desire for His kingdom to be established/manifested on earth. The fourth element is that of receiving from our heavenly Father our daily bread both spiritually and naturally. **The 5th principle or element of the Lord’s teaching on prayer is forgiveness, which is the number of grace/redemption.** As God has extended grace (forgiveness) to us who have sinned and fallen short of His glory, even so we are to extend forgiveness (grace) towards all that sin against us.

Jesus used many parables and illustrative stories to get His messages across and in the gospel we encounter one such example. Once Peter came to Jesus and asked Him, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till **seven** times? (**Matthew 18:21**) Then Jesus proceeded to tell them what the kingdom of God/heaven is like by telling them a story of a servant who was pardoned of his debt by his King. Unfortunately, this same servant turned around and threw another fellow servant who was unable to pay him his debt into prison even though the servant asked him to be patient with him promising to pay him all that was owed just as he had asked the king to be patient promising to pay him all and was totally forgiven and absolved of all that debt. The consequence of the ungrateful servant’s act was that his debt was reinstated and he was thrown into prison. It is the law of sowing and reaping.

In His use of adjectives to describe the king’s initial reaction towards the first servant Jesus used the word “compassion”. The word compassion as a noun has the flowing meaning: The humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it **noun**: A Deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering. A sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. A strong feeling of sympathy and sadness for the suffering or bad luck of others and a desire to help them:

When man sinned it was love (**1John 4:8**) that clothed them with the skins of animals (first temporary blood sacrifice). God is very aware of the wickedness of man’s heart brought about by sin (man’s decision and attempt to live independent of God). God was also very aware of and compassionate towards the human plight caused by sin which is death (the wages of sin **Romans 6:26**) and man’s helplessness to redeem/rescue himself from the eternal consequence of that action. That is why God who is love (and so full of compassion) did something to alleviate mankind from his plight. He gave His only begotten Son to die for us (**John 3:16**) while we were yet sinners (**Romans 5:8**) that who so ever believes in Him will have eternal life and not perish. The bible says that it is because of God’s mercies/compassion that we are not consumed. That mercy/compassion was demonstrated through the blood of Jesus’ redeeming work. God gave us forgiveness and cancelled the eternal consequence of our debt of sin, which is eternal separation from Him. Likewise by grace through faith we are to forgive all that sin against us.

In another parable Jesus told of a father who had two sons and the youngest came to him and demanded his portion of the inheritance and was rightfully given what was his and he went out and squandered it till reality set in. In the midst of his shameful (sin always brings shame) circumstance he said, “I **will arise and go to my father**, and will **say unto him**, Father, I have **sinned** against heaven and before thee” (**Luke15: 18**). Whenever we sin and are convicted we have a choice to either continue to sit in the mire of our sin and feel sorry for ourselves or arise and go to our Father who is full of mercy and compassion and promises to forgive our sins if we confess them according to **1John 1:9** and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In this parable we find out that the father saw his son afar off and the bible says that he had compassion on him and that desire of wanting to help his son caused him to ran towards him and embraced him and kissed him. And he did more according to verse 22-24:

22But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

The son was fully restored significant of the robe and the ring. That my friend is what God almighty did for us in Christ. God who is love in mercy forgave us and in compassion restored us to His original intent and purpose in Christ as children clothe in His righteousness and sealed in the Holy Ghost. He did something to alleviate our situation of death. He gave us life and now requires us to do the same to all who sin against us. That is what love is. Love is an adjective. It has corresponding actions. Love is something that is more demonstrated than said. The only way you and I will ever understand love is not in words but in deeds. God didn't just love the world or simply said He loved the world, He did something to prove that He loved the world. He gave His only begotten Son to redeem humanity from the eternal death of sin. **Love cannot exist alone. Even God who is one God expresses Himself in three persons, in a triune God where there is perfect love and harmony. Love must be expressed else it is not love and forgiveness is a foundation of the expressed nature of love.**

The bible is full of commands to forgive one another.

Matthew 6:15. But if ye **forgive not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father **forgive** your trespasses.

Matthew 18:35. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Mark 11:26. But if ye do **not forgive**, neither will your Father which is in heaven **forgive** your trespasses.

Ephesians 4:32. And be ye kind **one to another**, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13. Forbearing **one another**, and **forgiving one another**, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Forgiving those who wrong, hurt, sin against you is not optional, it is a command. Forgiveness is so crucial because it is the foundation based on the blood of Jesus that our salvation is rooted and founded on. As believers especially knowing what God has done for us in forgiving us, not forgiving those who sin and offend us is very dangerous. Jesus said that if you don't forgive “So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye *from your hearts* **forgive not** every one his brother their trespasses”. When you refuse to forgive you block yourself from receiving God's forgiveness and expose yourself to all kinds of demonic influence, psychological and mental disorientation which if prolonged could manifest in diseases of all sorts. Unforgiveness is simply not walking in love, rather it is walking in fear and fear (manifested in many forms)

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has torments and torments will mess up your soul and body. It is a medical fact. When you operate out of an offended and unforgiving spirit you cannot walk in joy. There is no merriness in your soul and the bible says in **Proverbs 17:22** that “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones”. It is impossible to have an unforgiving spirit and a merry or joyful heart at the same time.

You may say but Kenneth you don't know what they did to me and how it hurts. No I don't know and I will not minimize the profundity of your pain. God knows and feels your pain but please understand however that God's word never changes and God is not going to accommodate His word to suite or pamper your/mine anger (unforgiveness/sin) against our brother. He will not. It is dangerous to harbor unforgiveness. When you hold on to unforgiveness you have taken on the role of the avenger. God says vengeance is His. You cannot take on what God has specifically said is his. Your role and command is to forgive those who have sinned against you and when you withhold forgiveness (whether or not the person that offended you has asked for forgiveness) you may be thinking that you are hurting them but ultimately you are hurting yourself.

When you withhold forgiveness from someone else you forfeit your ability to receive forgiveness from God as Jesus said in **Mark 11:25** because you are refusing to give to another the very same thing that God gave you and continually gives you in Christ. If you are in unforgiveness you have violated the foundation of the law of love and as Paul said in **1 Corinthians 13** without love “I am nothing” and without love your faith will not work. Equally, unforgiveness will keep your prayers from being heard. Unforgiveness if protracted has the possibility of causing you to become bitter and opening your soul up to “the tormentors” in the form of influencing spirits who will bring pain, sickness and all forms of misfortunes into your life. Unforgiveness will cause Satan to have an advantage over you and he will come in eat up your cake, rub it on your face, whip you in the behind and mess you up so bad.

The mature believer will forgive even before the offender asks for forgiveness (or even if they don't) because first of all they don't want to grieve the Holy Spirit. Moreover he/she walks in the realization that God has forgiven their sins possibly thousands of times in their lifetime. Also they are not ignorant of the devil's devices/tricks. If you are struggling with unforgiveness just look at the times through your life that you have sinned and God has consistently forgiven you. As believers we are to be quick to forgive. Even if the hurt is so deep and you are having a hard time forgiving, unforgiveness is not an option. Forgiving those who have sinned/offended/hurt us is a command and **God has much grace to help us to forgive one another and the faith to believe that we can forgive. The Holy Spirit is our helper and for what ever issue in our christian walk we are having a hard time with including unforgiveness He is here to help us because forgiveness is so essential and** that is our next subject on this topic-**grace and faith to forgive.**

For you my friend and fellow saint I pray that our heavenly Father in Jesus name would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in your inner man. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge. And that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

I love and bless you in Jesus name

Shalom

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