

freedom of forgiveness

Lesson Two

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

“The concept of self-forgiveness has revelatory power to release people from shame, guilt and self loathing”.

“There are times God sends us into the wilderness because He not only wants to reveal to us who He is, but who we are.”

What is that “wilderness”?

Everyone who wants to serve God in a meaningful way will go through a wilderness.

Why?

Psalms 63:1 O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

1 Kings 19:11-12 ¹¹And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was not* in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was not* in the earthquake: ¹²And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was not* in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

Note that the prophet had to endure the wind, earthquake, and the fire before he heard a “still small voice”.

Why the wilderness?

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

2 Corinthians 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

The time and place of your wilderness is not up to you!

Only when we let God lead us into the wilderness can we learn what we must know.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

If you and I don't learn more than what we really want to know about ourselves, then we are an open, ignorant (without the right knowledge) and a target for the enemy of our soul.

It is in the wilderness where we can experience inner healing and greater revelation.

We need to be intimate with Him.

If you never go through a wilderness, how will you know when God shows up?

Some people have never fully experienced "God showing up", so when He does, they don't know how to react.

Deep calleth to deep.

Moses said, "show me thy glory".

Forgiveness is typically defined as the process of concluding resentment, indignation or anger as a result of a perceived offense, difference or mistake, and/or ceasing to demand punishment or restitution.^[1] The Oxford English Dictionary defines forgiveness as 'to grant free pardon and to give up all claim on account of an offense or debt'.

There are three areas of unforgiveness:

1. Unforgiveness toward God.
2. Unforgiveness toward our brother or sister.
3. Unforgiveness toward self.

When we refuse to forgive self, we contend with guilt and shame.

Unresolved shame is one of the most debilitating spiritual conditions we contend with.

Forgiving ourselves is not something we can do by our own power; it takes God's love and His healing to help us resolve shame once and for all.

Romans 5:5 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.

Only God can help us love in ways that do not come natural to us.

- When we can love someone who has done everything they can to hurt us...

- When we can love and pity evil people...

Remember, when we forgive someone it doesn't mean we must invite them over for thanksgiving dinner.

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

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

To forgive means to release.

Psalms 103:8-12 ⁸The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. ⁹ He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever. ¹⁰ He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

There is a difference between sin and iniquity:

Sin is a mistake, a flaw. Iniquity is self-will, rebellion against God. But God can deal with both through His blood.

If you have repented, if you've been baptized in Jesus' Name, you are forgiven. Now you have to walk by faith and assurance that you are forgiven.

Proverbs 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Wow, do you see that? We can bear up under infirmity, but a wounded spirit...???

A wounded spirit is too heavy for the human spirit to carry.

Even people who "work hard" for the kingdom can succumb to a wounded spirit.

There is one solution to weathering the storms of life even those that come from people close to us. That is, to have an intimate relationship with the Lord.

When you are intimate with the Lord, He imparts to you love, patience, forgiveness, and the ability to withstand in an evil day.

1 Peter 2:19-21 ¹⁹ For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1 John 3:19-21 ¹⁹ And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. ²⁰ **For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart,** and knoweth all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

Shame robs us of our faith in God.

John 21:15-17 ¹⁵ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. ¹⁶ He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. ¹⁷ He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Why did Jesus ask Peter the same question three times?

Jesus used the word (agape – love with no strings attached) while Peter responded with (phileo – love like a friend).

Look at the discourse: Jesus said, “Peter, do you ‘love me without strings attached’.” Peter said, “Yes Lord, ‘I love you like a friend’.”

If we are just going through the motions, if serving God is no more than mere duty, then we have missed the point.

We need to trust the Lord fully and completely. We should serve Him with passion and a heart full of love.

If you feel unlovable or unworthy you may never be able to accept God’s love or the love of others.

Many people live with walls up; no one can get close.

God cannot love us against our own will.

Have you ever tried to show someone love against their will? It won’t happen.

When we lower our walls and let God in, we will experience emotional and physical healing in a way we thought would never be possible.

2 Chronicles 16:9 a (NASB) "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those **whose heart is completely His.**"

Some people don’t feel God’s love because they don’t forgive themselves; therefore they live with constant rejection.

Did you know you project your human spirit fifteen feet around you?

What is shame?

- A feeling of loss of respect for oneself.
- A feeling of inadequacy.

Shame screams in your ear, you're defective; you'll never be good enough.

From time to time we will feel shame. We will never escape it. But we can reject it and move on.

How do you overcome these feelings of inadequacy, shame, etc.?

Pray daily that the Lord will help you. Don't stop after two days and say that didn't work. Keep at it.

Find Scriptures that will help you feel better about yourself and memorize them.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

When you let the Lord forgive you, freedom and liberty to pursue God to higher heights and deeper depths will be the norm.

Remember, Jesus gave His life for YOU!

There are three motivating factors in life: Fear, competition, and love. Fear will drive people, but it's not God's plan. Competition is powerful; people will go through all kinds of things for a trophy. But love is the greatest factor, it can overcome anything.

Romans 12:9 *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Dissimulation – hypocrisy. So when we talk about love without dissimulation we are talking about love that is sincere.

*This lesson is compiled by Rev. Warren R. Tryon, Jr. based on the book *The Freedom of Forgiveness* written by John Arcovio.