

freedom of forgiveness

Lesson One

This lesson is taken from the book written by John Arcovio

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.

If my people:

- Humble themselves: Repentance
- Pray: Relationship with God
- Seek my face: Intercession
- Turn from their wicked ways: The final act of true, heart rending, life changing repentance
- Then will I hear from heaven: The beginning of the outpouring
- And will forgive their sin, and heal their land: Inner healing and restoration of the Glory of God

There is a place where God's Spirit resides, "a resident anointing". This is more than just "from time to time"; it is an abiding presence of God.

Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

Do you think this kind of power or anointing is an accident, or it just happens?

When God says, "I will heal their land", He is saying, the decision to forgive facilitates healing.

Forgiveness will allow you to conquer, overcome, and destroy the yoke of shame.

Shame is probably one of the biggest hindrances in a child of God's walk.

Shame will keep you from freedom and can cause you to fall short of complete effectiveness.

Shame says you are _____.

Shame can _____. It makes you feel like God can never really use you because of your mistakes.

Jesus gave His life and shed His blood on Calvary to facilitate your forgiveness and remove your shame.

Joel 2:26-27 ²⁶And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. ²⁷ And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that I am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Often when you try to step out and be used of God, the enemy reminds you of your failures...

Why? _____

Satan would like to keep you from your “full _____”.

“In the freedom of forgiveness, there are no “skeletons” in your closet, only trophies of His grace”.

Jesus took satan’s power; He took the keys from him. He, satan, has no power or authority over us.

However, if we harbor un-forgiveness, bitterness or resentment, we, in a sense, give him (satan) his weapons back. He then in turn turns those weapons against us.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 ¹⁰To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ; ¹¹ Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

We don’t want to give the enemy an advantage in spiritual warfare.

What are some of the ways we can give satan an advantage over us?

How do these things give him an advantage? _____

God can empower us to forgive and love people we never thought we could love.

Maybe you need to visit a graveyard, where someone’s body resides and pronounce your forgiveness to that person.

A phone call, a letter, a personal conversation... One of these may really set you free.

I forgive you for _____, and from this day on I will not longer be hurt by what you did to me. I am free from you forever...

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Three dimensions of love:

- 1) Phileo: Friendship
- 2) Eros: Romantic
- 3) Agape: God's unending love or a love without a motive or agenda.

The word Agape cannot be found in Scripture until Jesus introduces it.

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

Dissimulation: Without motive, or without any strings attached.

Agape love is the only love God can empower us with.

We have human ability to "phileo" (love like a friend), we can also "eros" (love romantically), however, to love "agape", can only come from the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Love God, love your neighbor, love yourself!

For most of us, it's easy to love God. Most of the time, we can love our neighbors. The hard part is loving yourself.

Jesus said everything hangs on this: Love God, Love your Neighbor, Love Yourself.

Our level of intimacy with God is where everything else starts.

When we are head-over-heels in love with Jesus, loving our neighbor and yourself is easier.

There may be areas in your life that are very hard to deal with. You may have been abused or molested; someone may have hurt you in unimaginable ways, but Jesus wants to heal your heart.

Time does not heal all things. Something must be healed by the Lord. But, that healing needs to start with your willingness to love and forgive others.

Healing is the result of a disciplined decision, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Un-forgiveness toward God shows itself in rebellion.

Psalms 27:8 *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

Rebellion says, "I don't care what the Lord thinks, or what the Bible says, I'm going to do what I want."

What would you say to a person who thinks like this?

Loving others and loving self must come from an overflow of the love of God. When you love God so much, it overflows into all other areas, and then you can begin to love even those who have hurt you.

1 John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

If you say you have forgiven your father, mother, brother, or friend but it still hurts, then the Lord hasn't healed it yet.

True healing and restoration cannot happen until you choose to forgive and let go.

When you forgive someone you don't think about it anymore.

Matthew 5:44-48 ⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? ⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? ⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Loving Yourself:

When you have a hard time loving yourself, it usually is the result of feeling that somehow you were at fault for

The resulting guilt and shame causes us to hold back and to feel unworthy. Thus, when God wants to do something great for us, we don't accept it because, well, we aren't worthy.

What does shame cause? _____

How does it hinder your walk with God? _____

Shame is un-forgiveness towards ourselves.

Remember all sin must be forgiven by God. You can't forgive self and others unless you have been forgiven.

Remember, agape love is love without strings.

{Why can't we just wish get rid of the person who hurt us? Or why can't they break a leg, fall off a cliff, or maybe take a flying leap?}

2 Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ;

Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:23-35

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Joseph:

Genesis 41:50-52 ⁵⁰ And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. ⁵¹ And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, *said he*, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. ⁵² And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Genesis 50:19-21 ¹⁹ And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass,

as *it is* this day, to save much people alive. ²¹ Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

1 Peter 4:12-14 ¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

God wants us to experience His love in such a way that we know we are forgiven, and to such a level that we can also forgive ourselves.

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