ENTREPRENEURS IN CHRIST

NEWSLETTER

CINAUL ENRINE

Excerpt from the message -

GRACE TO FORGIVE by Emi Adelakun

Introduction:

Forgiveness is often associated with granting pardon to others, but what happens when the offense we struggle to forgive is our own? Whether it is a transgression against someone else or a sin against ourselves, the act of self-forgiveness becomes paramount. In Matthew 6:14-15, it is emphasized that forgiving others is crucial for receiving forgiveness from our Heavenly Father. Understanding this truth is essential to grasp the message presented today.

The Burden of Unforgiveness:

This passage suggests that unforgiveness in our lives has consequences. Our sins create distance between us and God, and holding onto unforgiveness towards others feels like a heavy burden weighing us down. This refusal to forgive hinders our progress in life. While it is natural to struggle with forgiving those who have hurt us, dwelling on negative emotions only impedes our growth and well-being.

Releasing the Past:

At some point, we must make the decision to let go of this burden. Until we do, it will continue to hinder our progress. Unforgiveness can become the root cause of many issues and challenges we face, even leading to physical illness in extreme cases. By choosing to release these memories and free ourselves from their grasp, we break free from being held captive in the past and embrace a future full of possibilities.

The Overlooked Aspect: Self-Forgiveness:

While forgiving others may be easier, forgiving ourselves can be challenging and often overlooked. Unforgiveness towards ourselves affects how we relate to ourselves, sets unrealistic expectations, and impacts our self-talk. It is crucial to acknowledge this struggle in order to maintain a right standing with God and avoid being stuck in a perpetual struggle.

Different Struggles with Self-Forgiveness:

There are three primary categories of struggles when it comes to self-forgiveness. The first group comprises those who find it challenging to forgive themselves due to an underlying difficulty forgiving others. The second group consists of individuals who readily forgive others but struggle to forgive themselves due to self-worth and self-image issues. The third group includes those who struggle with self-righteousness and hesitate to forgive themselves when they deviate from their self-imposed standards.

Examples from Biblical Stories:

Biblical stories, such as King David, Apostle Paul, and Peter, illustrate the significance of self-forgiveness. These individuals acknowledged their wrongdoings, sought God's forgiveness, and forgave themselves, experiencing transformation and redemption.

The Tragic Consequences of Unforgiveness:

Unforgiveness, especially towards oneself, can have dire consequences. It can lead to illness, emotional distress, and hinder one's ability to fully embrace God's forgiveness and the opportunities it brings.

The Complex Case of Judas:

Reflecting on the story of Judas Iscariot, we find a perspective on the challenges of self-forgiveness. Judas serves as a reminder of the tragic consequences of not forgiving oneself, which can stem from self-centeredness and a failure to recognize the extent of God's forgiveness.

The Spirit of Pride:

Pride is an underlying cause of self-unforgiveness, as it blinds us to God's forgiveness and leads to a higher standard set by ourselves. Overcoming this requires humility and accepting God's forgiveness as already extended to us.

Condemnation and Guilt:

Condemnation and guilt play significant roles in hindering self-forgiveness. Negative self-talk and perpetuating a cycle of self-punishment only reinforce feelings of worthlessness. Silencing the condemning voice is crucial in embracing grace and forgiveness.

Embracing Grace and Moving Forward:

To experience true freedom and growth, it is essential to shift focus from self-condemnation to self-acceptance and forgiveness. Treating ourselves with compassion, changing our internal dialogue, and allowing God's mercy to flow into our lives enable personal transformation.

The Weight of Condemnation:

Condemnation acts as a weight that prevents us from experiencing true freedom. Recognizing that we are not defined by our past actions and silencing the voice of condemnation is crucial in embracing God's forgiveness and our true identity.

Understanding the Power of Forgiveness:

To break free from condemnation, spending time with God and discovering our true identity is essential. Shifting focus from our weaknesses to God's mercy and grace is crucial in fully receiving His blessings.

The Danger of Holding On:

Continually holding onto past mistakes and offenses limits our growth and reinforces negative self-perceptions. Breaking free requires recognizing that our sins have been wiped out through God's forgiveness and extending that forgiveness to ourselves.

Breaking the Cycle:

To overcome condemnation, we must respond with the Word of God and affirm our identity in Christ. Holding onto self-condemnation becomes a foothold for the enemy, hindering our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Forgiveness and Breakthrough:

Self-forgiveness plays a significant role in personal and professional lives. The inability to forgive oneself hinders progress, creates barriers to moving forward, and prevents embracing new opportunities.

The Transformation of Letting Go:

Letting go of past mistakes and embracing forgiveness allows for a fresh start and personal transformation. Wearing the wrong garment of iniquities prevents us from experiencing God's glory.

Conclusion:

The journey of self-forgiveness is essential for personal growth and freedom.

Overcoming pride, condemnation, and guilt is crucial in embracing God's grace and forgiveness. By accepting God's forgiveness, extending it to ourselves, and shifting our focus from self-condemnation, we can break free from the chains of self-unforgiveness. Letting go of past iniquities opens us up to transformation, allowing us to move forward with renewed purpose and joy.

Emi Adelakun EIC Co-Founder



Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

- Colossians 3:13 NIV

10 BIBLE VERSES ABOUT MARKETPLACES

1. Matthew 23:7

And respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.

2. Acts 16:19

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,

3. Acts 17:17

So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

4. Matthew 20:3

And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place;

5. Luke 19:45-48

Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling, saying to them, "It is written, 'AND MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN." And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him,

6. Mark 12:38

In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places,

7. Matthew 11:16

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other children,

8. Galatians 6:9

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

9.1 Peter 3:3-4

Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

10. Luke 7:32

They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Business Name: LET'S DO AFRICA TOURS
Business Address: South Africa Johannesburg/

Angola Luanda

Business Contacts: +27731742825/+244948561293









Excerpt from the Teaching GRACE TO FORGIVE by Yemi Akins

Introduction:

Forgiveness is a topic of utmost importance, holding a significant place in our hearts as we delve into scriptures and explore the reasons why forgiveness is necessary. The concept of grace to forgive goes beyond simply discussing forgiveness. In most cases, we find ourselves grappling with the need to forgive repeatedly. It is not something we can achieve on our own strength. It requires a supernatural aid from God.

The Meaning of Grace:

Grace is the divine assistance and power that God provides to help us accomplish tasks and goals that are beyond our own abilities. It is a supernatural aid that enables us to overcome challenges and achieve what we could not achieve on our own. When we speak of grace, we acknowledge that God's hand is upon us, guiding and empowering us to accomplish the impossible.

Mark 11:20-26 recounts the incident where Jesus curses the fig tree and emphasizes the connection between faith, prayer, and forgiveness. Jesus tells his disciples that if they have faith in God, they can speak to mountains and see them move. However, he also adds a vital commandment related to forgiveness. He instructs them that when they stand praying, they must forgive anyone they have something against, so that their heavenly Father may also forgive their trespasses. Conversely, if they do not forgive others, their Father in heaven will not forgive them.

The Power of Forgiveness and Prayer:

Jesus' teaching highlights the integral relationship between forgiveness and prayer. He underscores the importance of forgiveness in our prayer lives and reveals that unforgiveness hinders our prayers from being answered. This revelation has profound implications for our spiritual growth and breakthroughs in various areas of our lives. When we align ourselves with God's command to forgive, we position ourselves to receive His forgiveness and experience the fullness of His blessings.

Understanding God's Law:

Every word that proceeds from God becomes a law. When God speaks, He establishes a standard that is forever settled. Proverbs 28:9 emphasizes that even our prayers can become detestable to God if we turn our ears away from hearing His instructions. Therefore, it is crucial to abide by God's authority and align ourselves with His Word. Rebellion arises when we prioritize our own opinions over God's authority. Maintaining order and discernment requires submitting to the authority of the King of kings, who has set His Word as the boundary for our lives.

Overcoming Obstacles to Forgiveness:

Many times, we encounter challenges in forgiving others. We may hold on to offenses, refusing to let go of unforgiveness. However, when we challenge God and His Word, seeking understanding and alignment with His will, transformation occurs. The key lies in choosing to believe God and aligning our actions with His instructions. Embracing forgiveness is essential.

The Weight of Words:

Words hold immense power, akin to stones thrown at us. The hurtful things people say can shatter us, leaving us on the brink of tears. Yet, as Stephen was being stoned, he found the strength to forgive. This act reminds us that forgiveness is not easy in our human nature, but through God's grace, it becomes possible. Grace, the divine assistance that enables us to achieve what our flesh alone cannot, empowers us to extend forgiveness.

The Lack of Knowledge:

Proverbs 29:13 reveals that both the poor and the oppressor share a common deficiency—knowledge. It is God who provides the light, the necessary knowledge, to both parties. As we receive this divine illumination, we begin to comprehend the truth that sets us free. It is this truth that Stephen embodied when he forgave his persecutors, illuminating the path for Saul's transformation into the apostle Paul.

The Benefits of Forgiveness:

Why should we embrace forgiveness? Let us explore the profound benefits it offers.

Saving Souls:

When we forgive others, we provide an opportunity for God to intervene in their lives. By submitting the matter to the Lord, we allow Him to work in their hearts and either save or convict them. Jesus demonstrated this when He prayed for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him. Similarly, Stephen's forgiveness paved the way for Saul's conversion, ultimately leading to the salvation of countless souls.

Quickened Prayers:

Unforgiveness hinders our prayers, but forgiveness opens the floodgates of divine intervention. When we address our internal conflicts and extend forgiveness, we align our hearts with God, creating a fertile ground for answered prayers. Scripture warns that if we hold onto iniquity in our hearts, our prayers will go unanswered. Therefore, forgiveness becomes a crucial catalyst for the efficacy of our prayers.

Entrusting Judgment to God:

By forgiving others, we surrender the role of judge to God. He alone is the ultimate arbiter of justice. Proverbs 29 emphasizes that justice for man comes from the Lord. If the person repents, God forgives. If not, divine judgment awaits. When we entrust the matter to God, we release ourselves from the burden of seeking retribution and allow God to deal with the situation according to His wisdom.

Safeguarding Against Demonic Influence:

Unforgiveness creates an open door for demonic activity in our lives. Holding onto grudges, resentment, and bitterness invites spiritual oppression. By choosing forgiveness, we close this door and protect ourselves from the torment of demonic influences. It is essential to recognize the spiritual implications of forgiveness and guard ourselves against the destructive consequences of unforgiveness.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant:

Matthew 18:21-35 presents the parable of the unforgiving servant, offering profound insights into the dynamics of forgiveness. The servant, forgiven of an immense debt by his master, then refuses to show mercy to a fellow servant with a significantly smaller debt. The master, upon discovering this lack of compassion, revokes his forgiveness and delivers the servant to torment. Jesus concludes by warning that our heavenly Father will likewise withhold forgiveness if we do not forgive from our hearts.

The Devastating Effects of Unforgiveness:

Unforgiveness acts as a poison that corrodes our hearts and spirits. Holding onto grudges is akin to drinking poison and expecting our enemies to suffer. In reality, it is we who suffer the consequences. Unforgiveness breeds resentment, anger, and other destructive emotions that hinder our growth. The toxic impact of unforgiveness extends to our decision-making, relationships, and overall well-being.

Embracing Freedom through Forgiveness:

To break free from the shackles of unforgiveness, we must surrender our pain and allow God to take over. It is a challenging process that requires intentional effort and the grace of God. We must confront the hurts of the past, forgive those who have wronged us, and release the burdens that weigh us down. Through this act of surrender, we invite God's healing power to transform our lives and enable us to experience the fullness of His blessings.

Prayer as a Catalyst for Transformation:

The purpose of a prayer life extends beyond the mere act of supplication. It is a means to witness tangible results and experience the joy and gladness that come with answered prayers. As we align ourselves with God's principles, forgive others, and address unresolved issues, our prayer life becomes a testimony to those around us. People will witness the transformative power of God's presence and see the glory of God through our lives.

Praying for Breakthrough:

Drawing inspiration from Ephesians 3:20, we find encouragement in knowing that God is capable of doing exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think. However, this verse emphasizes that such breakthroughs are accomplished through the power that works within us. Therefore, it is crucial to pray for the deliverance from unforgiveness, seeking God's grace to help us forgive others and experience the freedom and results we desire.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the power of forgiveness cannot be overstated in our prayer lives. Let us abandon superficiality and embrace a genuine connection with God. By releasing unforgiveness and allowing God to heal our hearts, we unlock the potential for transformative results in our prayers. May we all find the strength to forgive, experience the joy of answered prayers, and become powerful testimonies of God's love and grace in our environments.

Yemi Akins Country Lead - EIC Nigeria

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Business Name: CHEM-GLEE INCORPORATED P/L

Business Address: 10 Dovedale lane Glen Lorne

Chishawasha, Zimbabwe

Business Contacts: +263780722535







EIC BUSINESS LISTING DIRECTORY

Our business listing directory will start at the end of July

It's a free directory that only participating members will have the opportunity to list their business.

Members will be required to provide a discount code (5-10% discount) to other EIC members to encourage patronage amongst the EIC tribe.

The Requirements



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Business Name: Grave Care

Business Address: 6249 Gwabalanda, Byo, Zimbabwe

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Business Logo





MEMORY VERSE

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. – Matthew 6:14-15





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for EIC 2nd year Anniversary

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follows:

DATE: 15TH, 17TH, & 22ND OF SEPTEMBER 2023

Cities: Abuja, Nigeria; Accra, Ghana & Nairobi, Kenya

Venues: Coming soon

Make plans to attend. Use the link below to complete the Anniversary RSVP

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For more enquiries

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Mondays Time: 1PM EST/5PM GMT/6PM WAT/7PM SAT/8PM EAT PRAYER FORCE: CONFESSING PROMISES &
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8AM to 6PM SAT / 9AM to 7PM EAT









Fashion - Thursday 8pm WAT / 2pm EST / 7pm GMT / 10pm EAT / 9pm SA

Manufacturing - Saturday 3pm WAT / 9am EST / 2pm GMT / 5pm - EAT / 4pm SA

Real Estate - Saturday 2pm WAT / 8am -EST / 1pm GMT / 4pm EAT / 3pm SA

Digital Marketing/IT - Saturday 5pm WAT / 11am EST / 4pm GMT / 7pm EAT / 6pm SA

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Education - Saturday 2pm WAT / 8am EST / 1pm GMT / 4pm EAT / 3pm SA

Retail - Saturday 4pm WAT / 10am EST / 3pm GMT / 6pm EAT / 5pm SA

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EIC E-GROUPS





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