

**Rooting Out
Rejection
and
Hidden
Bitterness**

By Win Worley

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Reversing the Rejection Syndrome

Rejection is the sense of being unwanted, the agony of desperately wanting people to love you but being convinced they do not. They actually may be loving and accepting but when you are suffering rejection you are unable to believe or receive it. There is an aching desire to be a part of something but never feeling that you are. Isaiah wrote about a woman who had suffered a deep and terrible spiritual wound because of rejection.

"For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit and a wife of youth when thou wast refused, saith thy God."
(Isaiah 54:6)

To compensate for rejection some become withdrawn like a turtle in his shell for protection. Others explode with anger and hatred, fighting bitterly against the pain and injustice. Rejected people often spend their lives seeking a meaningful identity outside of a true relationship with God. Jesus declared Himself to be the way to the Heavenly Father. Ultimately all need to be reconciled in a personal relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Children who grow up without fathers always lack an identity. This results in a frantic life long search for one, struggling to be somebody. God's people today are seeking an identity. This explains the success of the rash of bogus religious prophets and teachers who are leading people astray. In the church, rejected Christians often struggle to be *the spiritual one* driven by this craving for identity. Spiritual gifts are sometimes perceived as a means of securing this status and recognition.

Your deliverance must produce at least two things if it is to be meaningful. First, a deepening love for the Lord in every aspect of life. Secondly, you begin to love your neighbor as yourself. Without agape love it is immaterial how much faith, how many gifts you possess, or what kind of miracles you may perform (**I Corinthians 13**). All are

simply twisted perversions striving against rejection unless they are rooted and driven by this agape love.

Just being a believer is fulfilling and gives an identity which satisfies. If there is a special calling on your life, you need not strive to attain it.

God will bring it to pass. *"If ye be willing and obedient you shall possess the land."* Working in the flesh will not force it to happen.

One young man tells of how rejection wrecked his life. "I was born out of wedlock under the curse of the bastard (**Deuteronomy 23:2**). Given up for adoption, I was reared in a good home by great foster parents. However, my entire life was marked with rebellion and a fierce struggle against rejection."

"When I was about 18 my rebellion drove me to literally go crazy. I plunged into all of the drugs and became what was called a speed (amphetamine) freak. Eight years ago I weighed 144 pounds and had hair down to my waist. This was my savage reaction to being rejected."

"I became a rock and roll musician and was determined to drive myself into stardom in a desperate search for an identity. I was determined to make it in the world and thus prove my own worth to everyone."

"In the entertainment business I collected a portfolio of 200 letters turning me down. This finally broke me and brought me to Jesus Christ. I was accepted by Someone much greater than those who had spurned me!"

"I planted a church in New York City, working with another man. Building it up from the two persons who started out with me, I joyfully toiled for four years. Later another took over by telling lies about me. I was repudiated by every believer in that ministry."

"After being forced out of my ministry God brought me something far more fulfilling. The Lord has His own way of bringing things to pass. This helped me to overcome my dependence on men's approval."

"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear?"

(Proverbs 18: 1-4)

"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." (**Proverbs 18:8**)

Wounded spirits, broken hearts and malicious words cause unbearable wounds. *Rejection operates in the spiritual realm* but also creates physical problems. Heaviness makes the heart stoop but a good word makes it glad (**Proverbs 12:25**). Wounds of rejection and a broken heart can produce depression which alters the countenance and adversely affects the spiritual area of life.

David said his soul melted because of heaviness (**Psalms 119:28**). This was rooted in deep hurt within, encompassing reasoning, the emotions and the ability to choose. All are tremendously affected by the injuries of a broken heart. **Proverbs 17:22** says that a merry heart does good like a medicine but a broken spirit dries the bones; produces spiritual and physical sickness.

"For what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man which is in him, even so the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God." (**I Corinthians 2:11**)

There are things an individual may not know consciously. Because the wounds are hidden the victim does not feel constantly rejected, nevertheless he is crucially affected by this power. This must be dealt with decisively and only the Holy Spirit can reveal this root problem and how to cope with the rejection which all believers receive.

The leaves, trunk and limbs of a tree are obvious but the roots are hidden. Outward manifestation of sins and problems such as lust, drinking, smoking, cursing, etc., are like the leaves. Preaching can cut them off but they will quickly grow back for they are still nourished by the roots.

The trunk of the tree is similar to a person who admits much hate or family pressure in his life. This produces a false responsibility or burden and a false compassion. Sin's power working on the surface could even drive one into fornication or adultery.

When a tree is cut down, the stump remains. Like rejection, the root system remains hidden below. Most seldom see that their chief or root problem is rejection, not adultery, fornication or fantasy. These are merely symptoms of the underlying root problem which must be faced before there can be much improvement.

Roots do not exist independently but build up into a tangled system. Pulling them up is a life changing experience for this destroys the intimidation felt by victims of rejection. Some fear deliverance because it means such a drastic personality change. They fear that to lose this lifelong handicap will leave them vulnerable.

Feeling or being unloved sets in motion a harsh rejection pattern. Oftentimes they are unhappy with their appearance, jobs, marriages, etc. Even as untreated physical wounds may become infected, spiritual and emotional wounds also fester and grow worse if neglected.

The cruelest cuts come when those who should love and nurture are negligent and indifferent. Deep rejection can begin before birth by rejection from the womb. An unwanted pregnancy because of illegitimacy, economic hardships or marital upset marks the infant with rejection.

Usually the first child in a family is shown great love. When the second arrives he begins to receive love also. However when a third child follows it may seem that suddenly all the love is transferred to the newcomer. This can cause the second youngster to feel neglected. Remember that both real and imaginary rejection do the same damage to the one who believes himself to be deprived.

The illegitimate child is a constant reminder of the situation which produced the birth. Sometimes the parents heap their own guilt and frustration upon the innocent child, rebuffing him. Much child abuse comes from by distraught, emotionally immature adults.

Rejection is a root from which sprouts the Fear of Rejection and Self Rejection. These powerful spirits are a triple dose having the power to totally warp and destroy the personality. Everyone has known some fine Christian who is loved and accepted by his peers. However, the fear of rejection will push him so that *he precipitates it by overcompensating, by striving for that which he already has!*

Desperately desiring acceptance he becomes a boring and annoying pest. No matter how much others love him he never feels it. He senses rejection everywhere and redoubles his efforts to be accepted, creating rejection.

"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which of I was afraid of is come unto me." (**Job 3:25**)

This enemy tactic perpetuates the demon spirit. By constantly magnifying and overemphasizing the rejection syndrome the victim rejects and hates himself. Believers *must* cease telling themselves that they are *too fat, too thin, too big, too small, too tall, too short etc.* This further reinforces that demonic negative image. According to **Ephesians 2:10**, we are the workmanship of God. Made in the similitude of God we must not curse what God has made. Accept yourself as a unique person, sealed by a God who will deal with any imperfections.

Rejection feeds many other things. Depression berates constantly that nobody cares and will help you have a *pity party* at any time. Self Pity says nobody likes or appreciates you in spite of your sacrificial, saintly giving of yourself. This is Rejection in religious garb, working to produce and feed Depression.

Rejection creates something very prominent in Christian circles. We have dubbed it *Insecurity Intimidation*, for it promotes being intimidated by everything. Any time someone else is blessed or shares a testimony, it strikes viciously. When gifts are manifested in church there is skepticism because these are seen as threats. This mentality puts up shields and walls to keep others at a distance effectively thwarting any loving outreach.

In his day, Isaiah branded temple worshippers as wicked and two-faced (**Isaiah 1**). Without love, they oppressed hired hands, withholding wages on the Sabbath. Piously they protested that they were only paying tithes. How typical of so many in churches today who loudly claim to love one another. Behind this corrupt facade the Lord finds no genuine love or honesty there. Everyone is striving to be religious rather than to be a servant.

God is searching for the genuinely grateful and thankful; he seeks those who do not put on religious airs, feigning special *anointings* and other false trappings. Agape love is to be given in deed and truth. We are not to await deliverance or others returning our love to do this.

Rejection also breeds *lust*, the counterfeit for love. Satan will insinuate that although mom did not pick you up or hug you when you were

young, *he* plans something very special for you. After you have experienced the ultimate lust experience, you learn *it is insatiable*. Only Christian agape love brings lasting satisfaction and brings edifying peace into the heart.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (**I Samuel 15:23**). Possessiveness and powerful control are the essence of witchcraft. This can be true of pastors, but is wrong, for the Holy Spirit must control and lead. Unfortunately there are few pastors who do not resort to manipulation of people. Many times feigned {*false*} praise, or fear and condemnation is used. This produces the works of the flesh (*pride, anger, violence etc.*) not the fruit of the Spirit.

The current trend of rock music, punk rock, rap, etc., all manifest demons of rejection. Literally they scream, "*Look at me! Notice me!*" Those suffering the heaviest rejection have the most bizarre and outlandish outfits and styles, vainly striving for attention and acceptance.

Various patterns can be observed and violence predominates in some. For example, how many things can you pierce through your nose and ears? They even try to bump heads when dancing. Rebellion breeds a foul root of Bitterness which produces Hatred and Angry Resentment.

Rejection takes you either through depression to the point of being suicidal or to seeking escape through supernatural power and falling into the occult trap. God rejected King Saul and his rebellion drove him to become entangled in witchcraft. Rejection spirits will perpetuate and entrench themselves unless deliverance intervenes.

Parental bondage may cause them to reject you, because they were incapable of giving you the love you craved and needed. When you have children, your own bondage can cause you to reject them and block you from giving them the love they need. *This terrible curse and its spirits are passed down the family line for generations.*

Everyone needs deliverance from rejection. The injuries received after becoming a born again believer may be more painful because of previous experiences. Rejection builds upon everything which happens to us, continually compounding the injuries and sensitivity to them. Demons work constantly to steal, kill and destroy.

Jesus Christ was the most rejected human being in history. When He lives within you, remember the world is *still* rejecting Him. Expect to receive rebuff from every area of life simply because you are a believer.

"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake." (**Matthew 5:11**)

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

"Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than His lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also." (**John 15:18-20**)

Although the spirits can be removed, Rejection will continue to attack. Casting out the spirits will make you to be able to cope much more easily. As with other areas of demonic infestation, you must learn to hold and occupy the ground which has been freed.

Ultimately God has only one goal for man, to be controlled by His love. **Romans 8:3** says that through Christ God is going to fulfill the righteousness of the law in us. All of the commandments will be fulfilled when we love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbor as ourselves. (**Matthew 22:38; Mark 12:20, 29**)

"And hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God, now that is the agape love of God, is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto you."
(**Romans 5:5**)

The love of God can be received in our lives is by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This will not necessarily change our character but God also wants to build the experience into our character, step by step.

"And besides this, giving all diligence add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance patience

and to patience godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness charity, God's divine love."

(2 Peter 1:5-7)

Thus God transforms our character to conform to this kind of love. Unless these principles are added to your character you will not arrive at God's agape love. Others may introduce you to this and even whet your appetite for it. The transforming of our character comes only when we follow the program outlined above. We must make a disciplined effort to achieve these things.

"For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow His steps."

"Who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth;"

"Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but He committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." (1 Peter 2:21-23)

When you follow Jesus' steps you will meet obstacles which are allowed there by God. He knows all about rejection, for He suffered this from His own family, His generation, His entire race and religious contemporaries. The Jews chose a murderer instead of Him. To deal with rejection we must follow our Savior. When He was rejected by men

(Isaiah 53:3) He said,

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

One sure sign of demonic oppression is self centeredness. Even when Jesus was dying, He was more concerned about others than Himself. Each time we are rejected or betrayed we must forgive **(Matthew 26:47-49)**. Loving and forgiving has been ordained by Jesus, as has persecution for righteousness sake and being rejected.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"

"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." (1 Peter 4:12, 13)

The Dangers of Hidden Bitterness

Everyone has seen the destructive power of bitterness working openly in the lives of various individuals. Even more dangerous is an evasive form which remains hidden, especially from the victim. Many are surprised when they learn that the Holy Spirit still manages to work to a degree in their lives in spite of their load of bitterness within.

We need to ask the Lord to probe the inner depths of our hearts and souls to reveal hindering things which block or hinder God's will for our lives. Facing these things squarely and appropriating forgiveness for them has a heavy effect in determining our spiritual progress. The first incident of bitterness in scripture:

"But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." (**Genesis 4:5**)

Religious jealousy and anger were the first indications of the resentment and bitterness within Cain. Anger opened the door for resentment and his face reflected his feelings.

"And the Lord said unto Cain, why art thou wroth and why is thy countenance fallen?"

"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin (a demon) lieth at the door. And unto thee {shall be} his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." (**Genesis 4:7**)

Here anger and resentment are plainly open doors for demonic entrance and activity. Sin (*a demon*) crouches at the door like a vicious animal

"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." (**Genesis 4:8**)

After the sin of bitterness opened the door for resentment and bitterness the combination culminated in murder. Scripture explicitly states that anger (and the bitterness it generates) will always be accompanied by a spirit of murder.

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (**1 John 3:15**)

"And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment {is} greater than I can bear."

"Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, {that} every one that findeth me shall slay me." (Genesis 4:13, 14)

Because of this terrible deed Cain was driven out, doomed to be a wanderer, hidden from God. An ungodly attitude toward others can produce actions which will seriously damage relationships with God.

"And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him." (Genesis 4:15)

Cain was so hated and defiled that others would turn on him. One of the terrible results about bitterness which leads to murder is that it marks the host so that people turn on you. This makes it very difficult to make friends and hinders all interpersonal relationships.

Bitter individuals leave trails of broken relationships with God and with others. Bitterness caused a rift in Cain's fellowship with God because of what the young man perceived as partiality toward his brother. This was a wrong viewpoint but it caused him to explode in violence toward Abel. Anger and resentment toward God repeatedly has surfaced as one of the biggest roots of spirits of Hidden Bitterness.

Angrily we demand, *"God, why didn't you hear my prayer? God why didn't you heal my mother? God why didn't you do this or that? I stood on the Word. I was taught that if I could stand on the Word that God is obligated to do something for me, and you didn't do it. It's not fair and I am mad at you."* This type of thinking sets us up to be prime candidates for tumbling into the occult!

Bitterness is quite a serious affliction. It sets one up as a prime prospect for mysticism, the occult and all of the lies of New Age movement. Multitudes of bitter Christians have been snared in these things.

A pastor testified that after eight years serving as a pastor in a Baptist church he left in disgust. Bitterness and anger set him up to get caught

in the intellectual, philosophical traps of the enemy. Studies in psychology established Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers as his idols, with their theories of non-directive counseling.

An ardent disciple, he plunged into these areas, never suspecting that he was dabbling in the occult. From there he progressed into the use of hypnosis in his attempts to help people. Beware! For there is no doubt that bitterness leads to and opens the door for the occult. When you find someone in the occult you will find a person full of anger, bitterness and murder.

The first indication of bitterness in God's people is found in Exodus just after Israel had left Egypt and had crossed the Red Sea by the supernatural power of God. The glow of the deliverance from Pharaoh's troops and the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea seemed to fade into forgetfulness. The moment difficulties reared their head, the faithfulness of God was quickly forgotten. How like them we are!

"And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they {were} bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah."

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"And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?"

"And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, {which} when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them," (Exodus 15:23-25)

Important principles are illustrated here. They were unable to drink Marah's bitter waters, yet God led them there. First they were led through dry places for three days without water. (Man can survive only three days without water!) In our walk with the Lord we may often go through dry places.

These may test the very limits of our human endurance! Our very wise God purposes these things to test and strengthen us spiritually, giving

us an opportunity to grow in faith. He also knows that you and I cannot grow until we can drink some bitter water and not spit it out.

In the book of Ruth, Boaz not only invited Ruth to eat but instructed her to sop her bread in the vinegar. This was a type of identification with bitterness. If we are to be successful in ministering to others there must be times when we partake of the vinegar! Oftentimes we are identified with bitterness instead. God knows that in order to grow, his people must be able to endure exposure to the dry places, the bitter waters and even learn to drink it.

In **verse 24**, the people responded wrongly, murmuring against Moses, angrily demanding to know what they are expected to drink. So often we are the same when faced with some bitter ordeal. We should be praising God for His sufficient grace; for the ability he gives to do all things through Christ. Too often, we often join the whining, complaining multitude who cannot remember any provisions in the past.

Another common reaction is called projection, which means to throw the blame on someone else. A popular form of this is a thinly veiled attack on God Himself; attacking God's anointed leaders. Frequently the essence of the problem is a failure to understand God's way. Today, as then, the Lord's people perish for a *lack of knowledge*.

So much of today's preaching is based upon faulty handling of the scripture. The wide spread "*Word-Faith prosperity*" teaching has done much to stimulate greed and covetousness in the believers rather than a willingness to sacrifice and bear a cross.

Name it and claim it; blab it and grab it have become the watch words in popular religiosity. Whatever happened to leaving all to take up the cross and follow Jesus? The cross has always been an instrument of torture and death, an emblem of suffering for that which is right.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any {man} will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

"One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me."

(Mark 10:21)

"And he said to {them} all, If any {man} will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Marah's bitter waters were cured by tossing a tree into the water to sweeten it. That tree is a type of the cross. The only way to deal successfully with our bitterness is at the cross. We will never work our way free of bitterness, nor will we come to a time when we *feel* like forgiving! What a waste to wait for what will never come. All must come to Calvary and face that fact. Also it is imperative to extend to others what has been lavished upon us, *forgiveness!* We must forgive others who have disappointed or hurt us.

We may well have to say, *"God You are perfect and cannot be wrong. I confess I am wrong and You are right. I now release this bitterness [am holding toward You and anyone else. I hate and I renounce it in Jesus' name."*

Biblical healing is revealed here at the place of bitter waters and God reveals His name as the healer, *Jehovah Rafa*. There is a definite link between bitterness and infirmity here. Behind almost every infirmity of the body look for the **primary** roots of bitterness. These may not even originate in the sick victim (*i.e., babies and very young children*). What a terrible legacy to pass on to those over whom you have authority and for who you are spiritually responsible!

This blight does not only apply to cancer or arthritis but to practically all weakness, sickness and infirmities. Bitterness and unforgiveness opens countless doors for attack on the victim. When you pray for someone, *first lead them to forgive others*. It will not hurt and might make the difference between success and failure.

"And they came to Elim, where {were} twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters." (Exodus 15:27)

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:"

"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

*"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain."
(Matthew 5:38, 39, 41)*

The Lord is discussing possible areas of bitterness. Out on the highway, legally a Roman soldier could force a "*provincial*" to carry his baggage at least one mile. Of course the Jews resented this bitterly. When caught in such a situation you could grind your teeth, curse and rave under your breath. At the end of the mile you could give the pack back to the soldier and glare at him with hatred and anger you dared not express openly.

Jesus offers an alternative whereby you cheerfully do that which you hate and resent. At the end of the mile, you even offer to carry it what has come to be called the "*second*" mile. The whole matter is concerned with the *attitude* taken toward doing mandatory hard or despised tasks.

When we approach the affairs and trials of life our attitudes can be a source of blessing or become a door through which evil spirits of unforgiveness and bitterness will pour in.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But 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,"

"For if ye love them which love you. what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more {than others}? do not even the publicans so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:43, 44, 46-48)

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high {places}." (Ephesians 6:12)

We must never lose sight of the fact that our battle is NOT with flesh and blood. It is with principalities and powers, world rulers of darkness,

spiritual wickedness in high places, demonic kings, princes and ranks and ranks of lesser evil spirits. Although they operate through and utilize human dupes we must always remember who is involved in the war. We dare not forget this and put the battle on a flesh and blood level. If we do, we will end up filled with bitterness and will lose the battle while we fight it.

In deliverance groups we must be constantly on guard against becoming embittered because of those who come to us from other churches seeking deliverance. Often when talking with them you uncover a tale of abuse by pastors who should have been a helper. We cannot allow ourselves the luxury of indignation.

Ignorance always promotes cruelty and lack of compassion for those who reach out for help. Those who loftily announce that they are not "called" to do deliverance have not read closely what Jesus said to do. These will either dump their deliverance load on you or will attack deliverance workers as being unscriptural. Thus they seek to relieve the pressure on them to help the ones they are supposed to whom they should minister. Remember that today so many are cowards and hirelings not God-called shepherds.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you. If you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly father forgive you your trespasses." (**Matthew 6:14-15**)

"Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged."

"And why beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye but considerest the beam that is in thine own eye?"

"Or how wilt thou say unto thy brother let me pull out the mote in thine eye and behold a beam is in thine own eye."

"Thou hypocrite! First cast out the beam out of thine own eye and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." (**Matthew 7: 1-5**)

"Then his lord said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

"Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?"

"And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses." (Matthew 18:32-35)

When called to account for his stewardship, a servant was discovered to have embezzled an enormous amount of money. His lord demanded that everything he had must be seized and he and his family sold into slavery for the debt. Because he begged and pleaded for mercy his lord relented of his former decision. Graciously he forgave all of the servant's huge liability.

The servant who had received great grace in the forgiving of his tremendous theft went out rejoicing. However, immediately he found a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount of money. Seizing him by the throat he harshly demanded immediate payment. Harshly he ignored his friend's pitiful pleas for an extension and an opportunity to repay. In **verse 34** the disgraceful episode was reported to his lord. Furious with the ungrateful servant, he ordered him seized and delivered him into the hands of the tormenters until he paid everything he owed.

"{Paul} To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also. For if I forgive anything to whom I forgave it for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ."

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us for we are not ignorant of his devices."

(2 Corinthians 2:10-11)

We must take away the advantages given the enemy through unforgiveness and bitterness by closing these doors. We can refuse to forgive, turn the other cheek and insist on judging and not going the extra mile. This opens us up for the consequences being delivered into the hands of tormenting spirits until we learn the lesson God is attempting to teach us.

In deliverance ministry there is a real danger of becoming fatigued and overtired; thereby we are more susceptible to the encroachments of bitterness. Weariness can cause irritable questioning of the Lord. *"How many more people are there whose lives are in such a mess? How much longer is this going to continue? Where are the other Christian workers and why aren't they doing anything to free the captives? How many more times will this same person return and want prayer?"*

When this kind of harassment begins it is time to take a break. Strictly confine deliverance sessions to periods when your group or church is meeting. If you set up the sessions, set them at your convenience not theirs. The ones seeking have lived for many years with the enemy tormenting them, so it is very unlikely that a few more days will kill them. Always keep in mind that you did NOT cause their problem and do not allow them to make it your responsibility to solve it.

Hurting, demonically driven people can be selfish, demanding and highly inconsiderate of you and your needs. They often approach with an attitude of, *"Now I have these terrible problems and you can fix them, so drop everything and get busy! I don't really care about your problems, I need help and you are obligated to give it to me."* If you let them they will drive you constantly to the very verge of collapse.

Do not permit them to "drop in" at your house. Insist that they call and ask about prayer. We never advise praying with them over the phone either for three reasons:

First, there is no way to predict what reaction the prayer will produce in the person seeking it. We certainly do not want the demon to cause wild manifestations and possible damage or injury to them or others.

Second, if you do deliverance on the phone, then prepare for the phone to grow out of your ear. People will keep you on the phone continually, night and day. Make up your mind that you will not deliver the world in a few weeks or months. You are only equipped and energized to help certain ones. If you shoot for everyone who hurts you will burn yourself out early.

Third, accept the fact that everyone who comes **will not** receive help. Although it technically is possible for everyone to receive deliverance, for a variety of reasons they do not and will not. They may be woefully

unprepared to surrender to the Lord, thus blocking any significant help. Do not let them put a *guilt trip* on you.

They may be loaded with drugs and other spiritual blockage which will hinder or stop deliverance. We have known of some who came repeatedly for prayer but received no significant help. Impatient, they were angry because no matter what method was employed or who prayed for them nothing happened. I had to conclude that the fault did not lie with the workers and methods. After all, thousands have been helped at the church and through the tapes, videos and books.

Sometimes a person wants help just in order to be free of demonic torment and handicaps so they can return to doing their own thing. Remember, God will not clean people up and fill them with steam so they can toot their whistle and ring their bell. He does rescue and restore us so that we can pun freight for Jesus.

We freely admit that even after over twenty years in continuous full scale deliverance ministry we certainly do not know a great deal. However the little we know and have proved by experience backed by the scriptures has been successful in freeing multitudes. Not only at Hegewisch, but everywhere in world these same principles and methods are applied the result is hope and freedom for multitudes.

"Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord, looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God lest any root of bitterness spring up and thereby many be defiled."

(Hebrews 12:14)

Notice, first, all bitterness affects your relationship with God. We are to follow peace and holiness as a life practice. If we fail to do this we will lack a clear view of the Lord, thus in a sense cutting us off from God. Then it directly affects your relationship with yourself. Failing to appropriate grace into your life can lead to a root of bitterness springing up within.

You will begin to turn in on yourself and become self critical, self condemned and rejected because of this evil root. Notice it also says that this will cause many to be defiled. Your relationship with others is definitely affected. Bitterness does many harmful and hurtful things. It tears the spirit; poisons the soul; brings in deception; leads to

immorality, builds walls of isolation and leaves a trail of broken relationships.

If this description fits you, then search for hidden roots of bitterness which are poisoning you. These are far more responsible for your troubles than any person or environmental situation you face.

"But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." (**1 John 2:11**)

Bitterness brings darkness into your life, and this produces hardness and insensitivity. Immaturity and arrested development are also fostered for you cannot grow normally without interaction with other people in the body of Christ. Bitter people cannot relate to others and continually break relationships. They are sitting ducks for deception.

Some signs that these vicious spirits are working within can be spotted easily. Some are constant criticism; judgmental attitudes; picking others to pieces and never being satisfied with anything or anybody. This is a miserable state of affairs. Other characteristic signs include: impatience, isolation, trying to be a loner and infirmity. The root of that infirmity will be a bitter spirit.

Bitter people are also the world's nit pickers, always seeking confrontations about things of little or trivial importance. They are constantly having to talk about things; most of the time about something which in no way concerns them.

Obnoxiously nosing into others business makes them as popular as the itch. People so driven are unable to develop any enduring, satisfying or fulfilling relationships. Others feel it is not worth the ordeal of enduring endless arguments, questionings and continual prying into matters of little or no importance.

Irritability and a proneness to short temper and temper tantrums are also typical indications of bitterness. *Don't lose your temper, no one else wants it!* In schizophrenia, the root of bitterness is surrounded by anger, hatred and murder. Retaliation and Memory Recall spirits bring back details of all of those little hurtful things. This causes a constant upset and discontent.

Trouble moving in the spiritual gifts can be because of a defiling root of bitterness which is grieving the Holy Spirit. This will hinder His operating through you and also hinder your prayers. Like Cain, *you are hid from God*. This subtle poison stealthfully pollutes the entire mind will and the emotions! (**Ephesians 4:30, 31**)

The Life of the Party Testimony Man 39 Years Old

I grew up in a family where there was no outward display of affection and love. My parents scarcely ever showed affection to each other. Whenever we became excited and interested in trying to do something, there was never any encouragement from them. There were only negative responses telling us why we could do nothing at all. Because we were so fearful of punishment, neither I nor my sister ever dared to say what we were thinking or how we felt. In this atmosphere, very early I learned to suppress all my feelings. Our dad was seldom home. When he was there and wanted to surprise us, he would order my sister and I to go into the kitchen. This terrified us for we knew we were in trouble and he was going to yell at us or give us a spanking.

At home I felt deeply rejected and this carried over into school. Although I tried desperately to belong and fit in, I never could. I was never any good at games and so was always the last one to be picked when teams were chosen. Bullies at school chased me and attempted to beat me up. I would start to run but would freeze with fear and be unable to escape their tormenting. Thus my childhood was filled with unhappiness and misery and I have no good memories about it.

In 1971, following graduation from high school, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Here again I found myself alone and rejected. Midway through my time in service I was shipped overseas. There I began to smoke marijuana, sell drugs, dance, drink and sleep with prostitutes. This became the sum total of my existence overseas. It was exciting because for the first time in my life, I felt accepted and loved, not rejected. This is what I foolishly believed at the time.

Throughout all the life of partying and carousing I was outgoing, the life of the party. However, deep within I was still a basket case of distorted emotions and feelings. Eighteen months later I returned to

the states filled with confidence and assurance, an obnoxiously proud know-

it-all. Certainly no one could tell me what to do. I knew I was right and everyone else was wrong.

Early in 1976 my cousin and I were driving around, idly looking for something to do. He had heard about the Hegewisch Baptist Church and decided to check it out. It seemed strange to be there yet at the same time, I felt as if I had to be there. I went a few times off and on.

I met a girl who ran away from home to come to live with me. At first things seemed to go well but before long all kinds of problems developed. I remember telling myself that I would never strike a woman. The first time I hit her, it upset me thoroughly, but the second time it was a little easier. From then on I had no conscience about it.

I would spend most of my time with my cousins and leave her at home. Many times I had no desire to touch her or to have anything to do with her. Once she wrecked the car and I yelled at her because I was more concerned about the car than about my wife. Such was the lunacy induced by the alcohol and drugs.

It was only when I was drunk that I wanted to have her with me. During these stormy days I desperately prayed to the Lord, begging Him to get me out of the mess I had made of my marriage. One day I came home from work and she had taken all of her things and moved out.

Hate, rage, rejection and a host of other feelings exploded in me. In my fury I wanted to kill, rape, hurt, commit suicide or blow up her car. I was like a madman with these thoughts continually flooding my mind. There was no peace of mind for me. The most insane thing I did during this stage of abandonment was to pray to the Lord to bring her back to me. I even began to seek out spiritual advisors. Scripture truly states that a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Finally, in January of 1987, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal savior. Shortly thereafter I returned to Hegewisch Baptist Church. Since then I have grown in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

This was a radical change for me after spending 34 years as the devil's advocate. Had it not been for Jesus Christ, Pastor Worley and the fellowship of the members at Hegewisch, I would have been destroyed.

Their patience, love and encouragement and the teaching I received there continued the change which my salvation had initiated.

I would have raped, killed or committed suicide. Instead of this, I have experienced and continue to receive much deliverance from evil spirits. I also have been used to help many others to get free from demonic bondage. Thank God for Jesus and the chance to rebuild broken lives by His Word and turn them into warriors for His glory.

The information in this booklet has been taken from Pastor Worley's Host of Hell Series. Similar information, relating to the topic of this booklet, may be found in one of the eleven other books he authored.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

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