

## ***How to Face Trials through Forgiveness***

***“32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. 33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. 36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, 37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. 38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. 44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. 47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. 48 And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. 49 And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.” (Luke 23:32-49 KJV)***

**\* Trials of different kinds will pass in our lives and this we cannot avoid, but what we can avoid is to act in wrong way and take wrong decisions while we pass through trials. \* From the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we can learn how we face trials and manage our lives during difficult times.**

Our Lord was arrested and passed through trials over the night; He was beaten, mocked, slapped and spitted on His face, flogged, a crown of thorns was laid on His head, was forced to carry the heavy cross on His back and humiliated being considered as a criminal and crucified along with two criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

The question is how Jesus faced that situation? Jesus Forgave those who hurt Him. He prayed to God to forgive them: He prayed, ***“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”*** He forgave those who nailed Him on the cross and asked the Father to forgive them because they didn’t know what they were doing. **Unforgiveness, hatred and trying to revenge from the people who harm us will only make life more difficult and troublesome and more burdens to carry. Forgiveness will lighten the burden that we carry in our lives.**

As we can read, after they crucified Jesus they even took his clothes and divided them between themselves but Jesus forgave them. **\* In forgiveness we are giving away what was taken from us by force and against our will. But as we do that our pain and suffering will be reduce. \* When we forgive people what they have taken away from us by force, what we are**

**telling and doing is this: These things that are taken from us are important but we still can manage because God is present in our lives.** People may have taken away from you your money, efforts, times, land, house, clothes, car, etc, but as you forgive them you are telling that you can still manage because God is present in your life and you are looking forward to what you will be going to receive more and more from Him.

***“2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)*** Jesus had to pass through the cross and there was no way to avoid it. **The same for you, you cannot avoid trials but you have to pass it successfully as Jesus passed through the cross.** Our Lord as He was receiving the physical hurt He was looking forward to the place that was prepared for Him to be at the right hand of God the Father. As He forgave His enemies He was eligible to the place that was ahead of Him. **Therefore in forgiveness we are looking forward to the next station that God wants us to be. If we don’t forgive then there is stagnation and no progress in our lives. People who fail to forgive they are not only in constant pain and suffering but they are in stagnation and no progress in their lives. They are stuck where they are with the ties of unforgiveness; revenge, hatred and bitterness.**

***“5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11 KJV)*** As Jesus humbled Himself and took the nature of a servant fully submitting Himself to the will of God the Father and was willing to forgive those whom He served and did well but they hurt Him and did bad to Him, God exalted Him to the highest place. **In forgiveness we receive lifting up and progress and got promoted. As we forgive we are clearing our minds from traps, sideways, and wrong tracks that the devil is trying to plunge us in. Therefore as we forgive we find ourselves on the high ways of God and progressing forward with the good plan of God in our lives.**

***“35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.” (Luke 23:35 KJV)*** There were many people under the cross who were speaking bad to Him, but He did not answer back to anyone of them because there was no use for they didn’t know what they were doing. But Jesus knew what He was doing because He had taken the decision to forgive those people who were hurting Him. **Forgiveness attitude free us from many unnecessary hurt and heartaches. You may hear during the day some bad comments, or see bad expressions, or receive wrong opinions and rejection but you should not react and harm yourself. As you are willing to forgive those who hurt you then your burden will be reduce and you will find yourself you don’t need to answer back many people and spoil your life and days, but instead your pain is reduced and you can look forward and see clearly what the Lord had in stored for you, for in forgiveness there are blessings.**

As we go to the cross of Jesus we will be able to learn more of things that we can apply in our lives and that will make our lives easier and our burdens lighter. Jesus said to us the following: ***“28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*** (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV) Therefore as we come to Jesus and yoke ourselves with Him we will be going to learn from Him more new things in our lives that make our lives easier and our circumstances better manageable. And that will open our eyes, minds and ears to see, perceive and hear of new opportunities to receive more of God’s blessings.

***“35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.”*** (Luke 23:35 KJV) The people that Jesus served were indifferent to the Lord and the rulers were sneering at Him. But what was the response of Jesus toward that? Did He answer back those people or try to defend Himself to them? No, He was silent, because no use to speak with those who had heard and seen many miracles of Jesus and His grace but still they acted in such a way. \* **The same here for you, when you pass through trials and people indifferent to your situation or they are speaking bad and negatively against you and some of them may even sneering at you, you don’t need to answer back or defend yourself, there is no use of that, you will just hurt yourself more. \* But rather allow God to defend you and defend His Word.** That what is written in the book of Isaiah about Jesus, ***“7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”*** (Isaiah 53:7 KJV) **The same for you before you open your mouth think of what and with whom you are going to speak?**

The Lord on the cross did not open His mouth and speak with those who were sneering at Him but He spoke with two persons were in the crowd around the cross. Let us read that from the following passage: ***“25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”*** (John 19:25-27 KJV) Jesus’ mother was not yet deep in faith in Jesus’ mission; she was in constant fear about her son because of the threat of the Pharisees and their evil plans against Him. But here now Mary faced with the truth that Jesus crucified for the sins of the world to save the people. Here she was in need for someone who will guide her and care for her spiritually and the Lord saw there was an opportunity for His mother to be cared spiritual by the beloved disciple. When Jesus saw His mother and the beloved disciple standing nearby He saw an opportunity for God’s service and to fulfill His responsibility toward His mother by putting her together with the beloved disciple who will be going to care for her spiritually. That what Jesus did was so effective because we can read later on in the book of Acts that Mary and Jesus’ brothers were among the hundred twenty who were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them as we can read here, ***“13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.***

***14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”*** (Acts 1:13-14 KJV)

Jesus with the attitude of forgiveness in His heart toward those whom He served but they hurt Him was able to see new opportunity to fulfill His responsibility and to serve God. **The same for you when you are willing to forgive and ignore the people bad comments and hurt then your eyes will be opened by the Lord to see the new opportunities of the blessings that the Lord will open for you to serve Him and to do your responsibility faithfully.**

Many people they are overwhelmed with unforgiveness and led by pain and hurt to revenge, retaliate and answer back those who harmed them. With such actions and attitudes they will hurt themselves more, and at the same time they will miss and be blinded to see the new opportunities that the Lord would be opening for them to do their responsibilities to serve Him and be blessed.

***“12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 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. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”*** (Colossians 3:12-14 KJV) As you watch your heart, mind, tongue and forgive, God spontaneously will open your eyes to see His blessing and grace in your life.

**Forgiveness is the right action that we need to take for every trial and hardship we face in life. Forgiveness it open our minds to understand the Scripture and see the Word of God alive and in practical way.**

***“36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, 37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.”*** (Luke 23:36-37 KJV) That was another humiliation that Jesus received from those who crucified Him. But how he looked at it and how He responded that is important. **In many times you might receive insults and offenses from people, and that you cannot avoid, but how you are going to respond to such harm is important for the outcome of your life. How you look to what people do to you and your respond to them that will be the important thing.** Let us read **John 19:28-30** to what the writer of John notice and wrote down of a same event: ***“28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”*** (John 19:28-30 KJV) Jesus did not focus on the mocking of the soldiers by offering Him wine vinegar, but He saw through it an opportunity to fulfill the Scripture. In **Psalms 69:21** David prophesied about Christ suffering the following: ***“21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”*** They might laugh on the Lord but that was not a problem for Jesus; His real responsibility was that He needed to fulfill the Scripture. **Sometimes people meaning to do bad to you or to mock you and laugh on you, but as you have the attitude of forgiveness you can see through it new opportunity to fulfill the Scripture and to progress. It is not your problem if the people are saying bad comments on you and it is not your fault if some they don’t like you according to their own opinion.**

You should not bother yourself with such comments. Ignore them fully and keep your mind clear toward God and what He wants you to do in your life unto Him by fulfilling the Word of God and put it in practice. Therefore forgiveness teaches you to live the Word and ignore the world.

*“38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” (Luke 23:38 KJV)* Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. That what the notice speaks is true and He showed that by His attitude, humility, forgiveness and responsible behavior toward God and what God wanted Him to do and achieve through the cross to offer salvation to the whole mankind.

*“39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.” (Luke 23:39 KJV)* Jesus never answered that thief back because there is no use. In fact the other criminal rebuked him for that insult and explained to him the truth in a clear way *“40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.” (Luke 23:39 KJV)* You must know that you don't need to answer many bad comments, wrong opinions and bad views about you, there is no use; but do as Jesus did.

*“42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43 KJV)* That was the time that Jesus spoke to answer a need and to help a man who was in need of help and who was really in repentance. Jesus as he had the attitude of forgiveness toward the criminal who insulted Him He was able to hear and responded to the need of the other criminal who was in repentance. *The same for you as you are willing to forgive those who hurt you and speak badly against you then God will open your ears to hear the voices of those who are really willing to be helped and you will be able to introduce them to Christ and be part of His kingdom. Forgiveness will open our ears to hear the voice of God who called us saying, “Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)*

*“6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.” (Acts 16:6-10 KJV)* In the mid of trials, pain and hardships where we are passing through suffering, God still voice will reach us if we pay attention to Him and clear our minds and thoughts from anger, hatred, revenge and retaliation

God wants to speak to you, but your mind and your thoughts are fully occupied with the plan of revenge, retaliation, hatred and fighting back. Unless you clear your mind of such things God's voice will never reach to your ears. Repent first then you will be blessed.

Christianity is based on the forgiveness of God toward human kind whom God created but went away living in disobedience to God. If God would not forgive man his sin then who can stand in front of God Almighty. *In the same way as God forgave us our sins He wants us to forgive one another in Christ Jesus our Lord, “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.” (Colossians 3:13 KJV)* So the challenge of God here is to forgive one another in the same way that God forgave us in Christ Jesus our Lord, that as we forgive others we assure the continuous receiving of God's forgiveness.

Jesus also said the following: *“14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15 KJV)* The point here is this; if we will not forgive others who hurt us and harm us then we will be in anger and hatred toward them and we will live our lives to plan evil against them and try to harm them and revenge of them. *Now if you live your life in such a way nursing grudges against people in your heart and planning to repay them evil for what they had done to you then God sure will not be happy with your life and attitude. God admonish us to control our lives, temper and attitude: “19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. 21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:19-21 KJV)* Life full of hatred and plan to revenge from others are very hard and not pleasant to God to live in such a way. But rather forgive and your wounds and sores will be healed by the Lord.

Forgiveness is the good attitude that will bring you good health, peace and joy in your life. What you need to do is to apply it gladly not as loss but as a source of gain in your life. Jesus' example on the cross is a good lesson for us to do and to follow.

*“33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mark 15:33-34 KJV)* Here Jesus was suffering the full pain as human and that was why He was praying to God the Father and telling Him, *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”* God forsook Him in term of bearing the full pain as human. But God was with Jesus as Jesus had God's Word and knew God's will then He was not alone. *The same for us, certain times we pass through hard trials and hardships and we pray and we cry to God and for certain times God is silent and He will allow us to pass these trials and hardships but that did not mean that He forsook us and left us alone. Yes! He is still with us as we have His Word, and the Holy Spirit who leads us to do the will of God, then we are not alone, God still with us. If God would allow us to pass through certain pain and suffering then God had a purpose for us in passing such trials and hardships.*

Some people when they pass through hardships they will start to be angry with God and start to blame God and develop the unforgiveness attitude toward Him. *That attitude will only make your life more difficult. Better for you to follow what Apostle James wrote, “2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that*



*the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:2-4 KJV)*

*“44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23:44-46 KJV)* Jesus after He finished all what He had to do on the cross He left the rest of the works to God to achieve. Some people they do their best but still there are many things needed to be achieved and they put the responsibility to achieve that on themselves by unforgiving themselves. Jesus gave us the good example for that. We need to do our part, and the rest God will do for us. We cannot play the rule of God but we need to trust Him and obey all His commands and degree and He will achieve to us what we could not able to do. And that what had happened, after the death of Jesus, *“47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.” (Luke 22:47 KJV)* God touched the heart of the centurion who was responsible for the team of the execution. Jesus did His part on the cross and after His death God touched the centurion’s heart and made him sees the truth clearly, that Jesus was a righteous man.

**My dear and beloved:** The question is this: What the centurion saw that had helped him to change His life? The answer is this: He saw the humble, responsible and forgiving attitude of Jesus toward those who harmed Him, and that changed His life. **The same is for you and for me; as we humble ourselves and be willing to forgive those who hurt us and remain responsible even in the mid of hardships and trials then our lives will be a good testimony and a good ground for others to be changed and transformed.**

Humble yourself and come back to God. Check your attitude and how you are thinking and acting toward those who are hurting you? Check your heart and see if there are any grudges, unforgiveness or hatred toward those who treated you in a bad way. Can you say to God and pray for them as Jesus prayed, **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”** Time for you now to release them in the hand of God to deal with them, and time for you now to humble yourself and think to serve God in a better way by willing to fulfill the Scripture and by doing your part toward God and toward the people around you as God is opening to you a new responsibilities and assignments to achieve. Now is the time for you to surrender your will to God, to forgive yourself and to forgive God and allow Him to lead you out in the current trials that you are passing through. Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teach me to forgive and put away from my mind those who had hurt me. Lord thank you for teaching me the way to live my life for you and the way to serve you and serve others who are in need of you. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we receive in this message.

Come now to God and confess and renounce your sin. Confess your anger, your grudge and non forgiveness to those who had hurt you. Confess your evil thoughts and plans. Confess and renounce your bad words and your fights and quarrels with those who harmed you. Confess and renounce your doing your own will and plan and not the will of God. Confess and

renounce your lack of prayer and reading God’s Word. Confess and renounce your non willingness to do your responsibilities and to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I ask you forgiveness for all my anger, un-forgiveness, bitterness hatred and desire to revenge from people.

Lord I release my forgiveness toward the following people who hurt me \_\_\_\_\_ **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”** Lord open my eyes to let me see what I need to do to fulfill my responsibilities and be blessed by you. Lord open my mind to understand the Scriptures and apply them in my life and open my ears to hear your voice and your calling unto me. Lord uphold me with your grace and lead me forward in your plan. Lord help me to forget the past events and open my eyes to see the path that you had opened to me to pursue. Lord I thank you for restoring me and adding me blessings and joy. Lord I commit my life into your hands to be humble, responsible, forgiving and good testimony for others to know you and walk in your ways, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord I pray for my brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to go along your Word and ways that you will heal their hearts and help them to forgive those who hurt them and caused them harm. Lord let your Word brings the fruit you desire to see in the life of each and every one of them, and use them to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, and uphold us with your grace and mercy. Lord give us more fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, humility, patience, self control, and long suffering so people can see Christ in our lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit, and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and make new disciples and train new workers to plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more souls to be harvested and more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfil the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord prepare us for your coming so when you come we are ready to go with you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will feel no pain. May the grace of the Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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