

I'm Doing This for Me – Bible Study Lesson

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

During the teaching series, I'm Working on Something we've been learning principles and techniques that will help us have a more successful and fruitful relationship with God. However, there is something invisible and seldom talked about, that can render all our efforts null and void.

UNFORGIVENESS is a roadblock that has the potential to abort the plan of God in our lives. When we learn to properly release those who have wronged us, we position ourselves to receive all God has available to us. With this in mind let's examine: **I'm Doing This for Me.**

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

We must set our will in advance to forgive and release everyone who offends us. The scripture says “Forgive, just as Christ has forgiven you.” There are some mistakes that we haven't made yet. However, God has already decided to forgive us for them. We must understand that forgiveness is a choice and not a feeling. The problem with continuing to hold on to whatever has been done to us is that it takes large amounts of our emotional real estate, time, energy, and brain power. **WE WANT ALL THE POWER GOD HAS FOR US, WE MUST FORGIVE.**

- 1. I decided not to give my power away.**

Acts 3:4-7 (NLT)

4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, “Look at us!”

5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money.

6 But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”

7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.

When we refuse to release the pain of the past, we prohibit our progress and stop any forward momentum. **The problem is that unforgiveness only stops us.** Everyone is moving on, but us. We think we’re holding them accountable for what they did. However, we’re holding ourselves back from moving toward health and healing. We must come to the place where we realize, **GOD HAS TO HAVE MORE FOR ME THAN THIS.** I will extract everything I need from this. **Then I’m moving on...**

2. I decided not to stay here any longer than necessary.

Luke 6:27-29 (NLT)

27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.

28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.

Forgiveness allows us the freedom to be in control of our own emotions. The offenses that were done to us may have caused us to be put in emotional and spiritual bondage. When we choose to forgive, it sets us free. **IF YOU WANT TO REALLY MAKE THE ENEMY MAD, DON’T RESPOND LIKE YOU NORMALLY DO TO HIS/HER FOOLISHNESS...**

3. I decided not to allow anyone to push my buttons.

Matthew 18:21-22

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

No one is perfect, even you. Thus, we must learn to make forgiveness our continuous go-to decision. We’re all going to need forgiveness multiple times in our lifetime. So, we must decide to do it over and over again. **HOW MANY TIMES DO I WANT TO BE FORGIVEN? EVERY TIME...**

4. I decided to sow continually for what I need myself.

James 5:16 (AMP)

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offenses], and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].

In today’s society, people hate requirements. If you want to work here, you must... If you want to eat here you must wear this or not wear that... So many people want the requirements to change for them, instead of them coming up to the standard. God says if you want your prayers to reach Heaven, there are some requirements. If you want what’s in Heaven to reach Earth, there are some requirements. **ONE OF THOSE REQUIREMENTS IS THAT WE MUST FORGIVE!!**

5. I decided that my prayers will bring healing and restoration.

During the teaching series, I’m Working on Something we’ve been learning principles and techniques that will help us have a more successful and fruitful relationship with God. When we learn to properly release those who have wronged us, we position ourselves to receive all God has available to us. Remember: **I’m Doing This for Me.**