



THE MAGAZINE ON SPIRIT-LED LIVING


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INNER HEALING

Letting the Holy Spirit Heal the Hurts



Jamie Buckingham
on Making God
LORD of the
Subconscious

Gene Lilly
on the Value
of Forgiveness

ALSO:
What You Say
Can Help You
Or Hurt You

Diary
of a FAT
Housewife

Editorial Copy

“As We Forgive Those . . .”

We achieve inner healing for ourselves and loose others so God can work in their lives when we learn the simple truth of forgiveness.

By GENE LILLY

Most Christians expect God to forgive them of everything they ever did wrong. But they never realize that there is something they must do: they must learn to forgive.

That seems simple enough. But I was a Christian for years and even in full-time ministry before the truth of forgiveness finally sunk in.

I was ministering at a revival in a small church. I had been healed not too long before of multiple sclerosis, sugar diabetes plus a lot of spiritual problems at a Charles and Frances Hunter meeting.

The Lord had completely turned my Christian life around and later gave me a full-time ministry.

I had taught on forgiveness many times, because I knew there was a connection between forgiveness and healing.

That night I was teaching on the parable about the king who forgave a servant more than \$20 million. Rather than throwing the servant in jail (as was the custom of the day when someone could not pay a debt), the king told the servant he did not have to pay the huge debt. The servant was very grateful.

But then that servant turned around and insisted that a fellow servant pay him a measly \$20 debt. When the fellow servant said he couldn't pay, he was thrown into prison.

When the king was told what happened, he was furious. He could not believe that the servant who had been forgiven so much could refuse to forgive such a small debt. He had the unforgiving servant thrown into prison too.

Then it hit me. Because the first servant was unforgiving, not only did he end up in jail, but the other servant went to jail. His unforgiveness bound both he and the other servant.

Maybe that's what Jesus meant in John 20:23: "If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven if you re-

tain the sins of any, they have been retained."

In other words, our unforgiveness can bind both us and the one we refuse to forgive.

One man who heard the message was George Clouse. George is a former Methodist who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit four years ago and is not only one of the most gentle Christians I know, but probably my closest friend. George's vivacious wife, Mary Jo, is my able administrative assistant.

If we judge, then we condemn. If we condemn, then we bind. If we bind, then we are no longer free. When we see people sinning, we need to forgive them so God can work in their lives.

George and Mary Jo have a beautiful Christian home and two well-behaved teenagers.

One of George's greatest heartaches is that he reared his three grown children in an unChristian home because he did not know Jesus until after they left home.

Still, George believed his children would become Christians. Shortly his two daughters and their husbands found Jesus. But his oldest son, Bill, seemed a hopeless case. Bill is a big burly man who loved big motorcycles and who had worked, among other jobs, as a bouncer at a bar. Religion was the furthest thing from his mind, and he wouldn't come near a church. This was, of course, a big disappointment to George and Mary Jo.

The night I preached about forgiveness, it dawned on George that he had been condemning Bill and his wife, Donna, for not living right.

He read in Luke 6:37 that Jesus said to "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged:

condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

"We were judging and condemning when we should have been forgiving," George told me later. "We changed things that night and never condemned again."

It was less than a week after "forgiving" Donna and Bill that Donna came to church with them for the first time. Three months later, Bill telephoned his dad late one night, and George led him to the Lord over the phone.

Praise God. It works.

The same thing happened to me. I had condemned my younger sister Becky, who was living a wild life away from the Lord. But as the truth of "loosing" through forgiveness came to me, I prayed for forgiveness for holding the guilt on her.

That very night, Becky called us long distance from Indiana. She was crying and wanted to get right with God.

Thank you, Jesus.

The truth of forgiveness is changing lives all around us. Almost daily I get mail from people who have been set free, or who have set others free through forgiveness.

Then the real clencher for me came when I experienced inner healing after my wife, Phyllis, forgave me for my bad temper.

My dad had a bad temper and so did my granddad, so I always figured it ran in the Lilly family.

I had a bad temper all my life, but it seemed to get progressively worse after I married Phyllis.

I prayed many times for the Lord to quell my temper. I rebuked the devil time after time. But I couldn't seem to get victory over the problem.


Then one day Phyllis came in and said, "Gene, the Lord spoke to me I've judged

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The story of Gene Lilly

by Charles  Frances Hunter

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you about your temper and I've been wrong about you. I want to forgive you for that. I want to ask your forgiveness."

I told Phyllis she didn't need to ask for forgiveness because I understood why she should be upset at me.

"It doesn't matter why I feel that way," she continued. "I'm just to forgive you."


I haven't lost my temper since.

Then I understood fully the truth in forgiveness. It doesn't matter who is right or wrong. Jesus was crucified and still He forgave all. He sure didn't decide that He was right and they were wrong and refused to forgive.

Jesus said in John 12 that if anyone hears what he has to say but doesn't follow it, that he doesn't judge him, "for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world." Don't you think if Jesus isn't judging then we shouldn't judge?

If we judge, then we condemn. If we condemn, then we bind. If we bind, then we are no longer free.

When we see people sinning, we need to forgive them so God can work in their lives.

As you forgive, it shall be forgiven you! By forgiving, you get loosed, and you loose others as well. 



Gene Lilly is an evangelist whose ministry spans North America and the Caribbean Sea. He is co-author of *Don't Limit God* and *Victory Over MS*.

A PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

"Father, I come in the name of Jesus, right to the throne of grace, and I pray that Your Holy Spirit minister in my life right now.

Look upon my heart, Lord, and any malice, any slander, or anything that is in my heart against brother or sister, or even anyone that's not in the family of God, that I have unforgiveness for, I pray You'd bring to my mind right now, by the power of Your Holy Spirit.

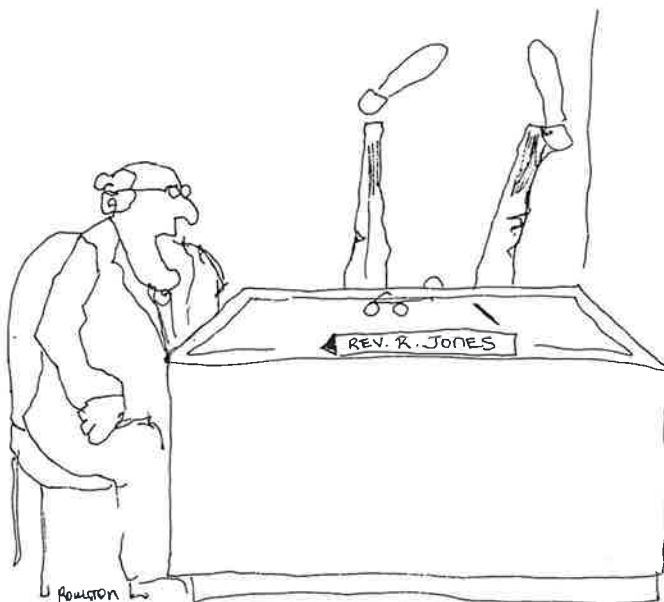
I start forgiving right now, as they come to mind. I forgive (*fill in the name of each person that the Holy Spirit brings to mind*).

I forgive them and pray that they will forgive me for each wrong done. I let forgiveness flow in my spirit now! Lord, I praise You for what You're doing in my heart right now!

Lord, I forgive myself for each mistake I have made, each wrong turn I have taken and I ask You to forgive and cleanse me from all unforgiveness. I pray that forgiveness will remain as the state of my heart.

I pray that the people You have brought to my mind and I have named be loosed and that they might loose others, and that families be restored through this loosing.

Lord, I praise You and I pray Your blessing upon all these people that I have forgiven. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!"



PASTOR, I WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO TEACH A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS.