

SEMINAR 7

THE FORCE OF FORGIVENESS IN CHRIST JESUS

By Bishop Segun Johnson

1. UNDERSTANDING FORGIVENESS EVEN BEFORE THE OFFENCE IS COMMITTED.

THE JESUS/PETER EXAMPLE

Luke 22:31-34

31, And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32, But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fails not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33, And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34, And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Luke 22:31-34 KJV

2. WHAT IS THE FORCE OF FORGIVENESS

The force of releasing a person back into his or her destiny lane.

The government throws criminals into prison sometimes for life.

But if forgiven, the person can continue with his life race.

Dictionary definition

- To grant pardon for or remission of (an offense, debt, etc.); absolve.
- To give up all claim on account of; remit (a debt, obligation, etc.).
- To grant pardon to (a person).

Forgive = To pardon

Latin Pardonare = To give freely

Par = For + Donare = Donate = Give

Forgive

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:8 KJV

3 EACH TIME YOU FORGIVE A PERSON, YOU ARE ASKING THE PERSON TO GO FULFIL HIS OR HER DESTINY

You remove the reproach caused by the offence.

Hence Jesus said forgive seventy times seven a day.

Matthew 18:21-22

21, Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22, Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22 KJV

3. ALL FORGIVEN PERSONS MUST BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR THIS FREE GESTURE.

IT IS FREE TO THE RECEIVER BUT TOTALLY PAID FOR BY THE GIVER

Jacob was extremely humble for the forgiveness received from Esau. And he fulfilled his destiny.

Genesis 32:3-8

3, And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

4, And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my Lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now:

5, And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and women servants: and I have sent to tell my Lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

6, And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, we came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.

7, Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;

8, And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.

Genesis 32:3-8 KJV

Genesis 33:1-7

1, And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.

2, And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.

3, And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4, And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.

5, And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, who are those with thee?

6, And he said, the children which God hath graciously given thy servant. Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.

7, And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.

Genesis 33:1-7 KJV

Paul to Philemon for Onesimus

Philemon 1:10-20

10, I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

11, Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

12, Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, my own bowels:

13, Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

14, But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

15, For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

16, Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

17, If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

18, If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

19, I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

20, Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

Philemon 1:10-20 KJV

4. THE UNFORGIVEN ONES NEVER WALKED IN THEIR DESTINIES

Cain

Genesis 4:9-15

9, And the Lord said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10, And he said, what hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11, And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand

12, When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13, And Cain said unto the Lord, my punishment is greater than I can bear.

14, 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.

15, 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 4:9-15 KJV

Sodom and Gomorrah not forgiven and totally destroyed.

Genesis 19:24-25

24, Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

25, And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

Genesis 19:24-25 KJV

5. THE FORGIVEN ONES RETURN TO THEIR DESTINIES

Nineveh was forgiven and prosper

Jonah 3:10

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3:10 KJV

Moses was pardoned and fulfilled his destiny

Exodus 3:11-12

11, And Moses said unto God, who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

12, And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Exodus 3:11-12 KJV

Paul was forgiven and he fulfilled his destiny

1 Timothy 1:11-17

11, According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

12, And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13, Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14, And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15, This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16, Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

17, Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:11-17 KJV

THE 11DISCIPLES OF JESUS WERE FORGIVEN

Matthew 26:31-35

31, Then saith Jesus unto them, all ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

32, But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto him,

33, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

34, Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him,

35, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise, also said all the disciples.

Matthew 26:31-35 KJV

STEPHEN FORGAVE HIS KILLERS AND PAUL WAS ONE OF THEM

Acts 7:58-60

58, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59, And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60, And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:58-60 KJV

JESUS FORGAVE HIS KILLERS AND THE WHOLE WORLD WAS SAVED

JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 kjv

6. THE GREATEST OFFENCE A MAN CAN NOW COMMIT IS REFUSING TO APPROPRIATE THE FORGIVENESS ACT OF GOD BY CHRIST JESUS ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY

John 3:17-21

17, For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18, He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19, And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20, For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21, But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:17-21 KJV