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Dealing with a Root of Bitterness

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1 Peter 3:8-11 “8Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.”

When you see God’s blessings and plans for your life, you will be able to overcome any road block or giants that might try to come your way. You can overcome in any area of your life—finances, relationships, health.

There was once a lady who was in the hospital in critical condition. Her son-in-law was a minister and came to see his mother-in-law as she was lying in her death bed. The women leaned over to the man and say, “Help me get rid of this thing.” Bitterness was preventing the women from being able to die peacefully. The young man was able to talk to his mother-in-law and help her get rid of all the bitterness that was stored up in her life. Three days afterward, the women passed on with the peace of knowing everything was right.

Bitterness is a very hard thing to overcome. Many times we hold on to bitterness think that it is a way to get revenge on whomever did us wrong, but the truth is that as we live in a bitter lifestyle, the other person is living just fine regardless. We need to forgive and release that other person not only for their needs, but mostly for ourselves.

Hebrews 12:15 “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”

Grace: God’s power working in us

Hebrews 12:15 (Message) “14-17Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you’ll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God’s generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time. Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God’s lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God’s blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.”

So many times bad things start to grow spiritually in our lives and instead of us fixing them right from the beginning, we water them until they become an even bigger problem. Just like any weed in the garden, bitterness has a deep root underground. Only someone who grows close to us can see this bad root hidden underneath the surface. A root of bitterness in our lives will eventually affect people around us, ruining their lives.

70% of Christians hold unresolved resentment and bitterness.

Life is too short to hold grudges.

When someone really becomes saved, there will be a change in that person's life. There are different behavior patterns of those who live in darkness than those who live in the light.

Ephesians 4:30-31 “30And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”

We are a tabernacle for the Holy Spirit to work His plans for the Kingdom of God in us. The above verse does not say that we need to go to counseling, but that we just need to get rid of our bitterness. Put it away. Go direct to the root of bitterness and don't focus on the pure actions.

If we want to really enjoy life, some of us will have to have radical surgery. Similar to someone who gets cancer and has to remove a part of their body, it is better to cut off the infected part of your life rather than to let it spread to the rest of your life.

Ephesians 4:31-32 “ 31Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

You can get rid of bitterness through forgiveness. You can try to bury your problem, but eventually, it will leak out. You just have to get rid of it. Bitterness will pollute the flow of life out of you.

Clamor: ignorant speech

Malice: thinking of ways to get even

Evil speaking: gossip/hearing something from another and spreading it without evidence

Forgiveness does not always mean reconciliation. You can forgive someone without them even being consulted.

Titus 3:3 (Amplified) “For we also were once thoughtless and senseless, obstinate and disobedient, deluded and misled; [we too were once] slaves to all sorts of cravings and pleasures, wasting our days in malice and jealousy and envy, hateful (hated, detestable) and hating one another.”

To enjoy the good life, we will have to live in forgiveness. Forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. Always go to the course.