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VOL. 38 ISSUE 6

FORGIVE THEM

*THEN SAID JESUS, FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY KNOW NOT
WHAT THEY DO... - LUKE 23:34 KJV*



CFBC MEETINGS: PIGEON FORGE, TN // BRANSON, MO // PENSACOLA BEACH, FL

RANDALL GRIER MINISTRIES

FORGIVE THEM

Then said Jesus, Father; forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. (Luke 23:34)



PATTI, RANDALL, & RANDALL GRIER JR.

Have you noticed how much ill will, bitterness, animosity, hostility, hatred, rage, disregard for human life, and murder is in our nation in the last few years? This comes from evil spirits, and these spirits have gotten into the church. The devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy, not God.

I have noticed this demonic influence in the church for well over three years. Christians are turning against each other and even becoming angry with one another. I am not speaking of doctrinal issues either. I am speaking of personality differences and conflicts with others for seemingly insignificant reasons.

In the final moments before His death, Jesus was looking at those who wanted Him dead and said, *“Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* Could you do that? They ignorantly wanted the Son of God dead, according to Jesus Christ. They were absolutely wrong, but they were convinced they were right and Jesus was wrong. Many today believe they are right when they are absolutely wrong.

Christians are more volatile and aggressive than in the past. Christians are much more opinionated and expressive with those opinions. Christians are more easily offended and get highly agitated when others do not agree with them. This is to the point that they get angry and even furious with others. Oops, did I say Christians? Well, I meant to say Christians. The evil spirits in the world have infiltrated the church.

People are more easily offended when other Christians do not agree with them. They get their feelings hurt and sometimes have emotional outbursts to let others know how they feel. They get so angry that they shake, tremble, and quake sometimes.

Also, Christians are dealing with temptations and fleshly habits on an unprecedented level. It is spiritual warfare, and the devil is doing his best to get Christians to sin, and many are doing so. Some with regret and some with an indifference like, “So what? God still loves me, and He knows I have these flesh problems.” It seems some are dead to God and alive unto sin. All evil is related to the devil. The devil works through the flesh to get people to disobey God. We must crucify the flesh with God’s help.

Many Christians develop a sense of entitlement, not servanthood, from the preaching of the modern-day, unbiblical gospel. This has caused a deluge of demon activity because it is rooted in pride. Satan was lifted up in pride, and it caused his demise. My heart goes out to Christians who don't realize that demons are trying to influence them to cause problems.

Yes, Christians can be oppressed and obsessed by demons into acting in ways that are wrong. They are not possessed, which would mean an evil spirit lived in their human spirit. When they are oppressed or obsessed, the demon lives on the outside and works through their flesh and mind. Bible study, prayer, and resisting these spirits in the power and name of Jesus Christ are the keys to victory.

Envy And Strife

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (James 3:16)

On June 29, 2023, I was seeking the Lord. I was about to speak in a service, and I was meditating on what the Lord wanted to do. The Lord reminded me of something that happened in Dad Hagin's 1989 camp meeting in Tulsa, OK.

I learned great Bible principles from that event. I was attending Dad Hagin's camp meeting and witnessed forgiveness and the love of God like I never had before. It helped me to look at others differently and have compassion for them.

In the mid-to-late 1980's, a couple of world-wide ministries came tumbling down. Others were involved as well. What many don't know is that they got into strife with other ministers, and it opened the door to the devil. PTL came tumbling down along with JSM. Strife always opens the door to the devil.

In 1988, Rev. J.S. was caught with a prostitute on more than one occasion. It was international news and brought him much shame and public attention. He was reaching more people with the gospel than any other ministry I knew of. He was on TV and had very large crusades.

Prior to this, Rev. J.S. had turned against a pastor in his pentecostal denomination. Pastor M.G. had over 6,000 members in his church. In those days, that was a very large church. Rev. J.S. exposed this pastor for having an affair with a woman. He believed the pastor should be severely punished for his actions.

Rev J.S. had a lot of influence and used it to attack, persecute, and demean this pastor. Pastor M.G. developed a vindictive attitude against Rev. J.S. and started searching for anything wrong in his life that he could reveal that would cause him problems. Pastor M.G. had Rev. J.S. followed around until they caught him with a prostitute, and then they exposed him. All major news channels were talking about this and showing pictures of people involved on national TV. It was a mess!

Many in the church got angry at these preachers for bringing such shame to the church world. They were especially upset with Rev. J.S. because he was caught more than once with a prostitute publicly.

About a year and a half after this came to an end, Rev. J.S. attended Dad Hagin's camp meeting in 1989. My wife and I were there, as we always attended his camp meetings. Dad Hagin went to the platform after praise and worship. He recognized Rev. J.S. and called him to the platform. He went up beside Dad Hagin and began to weep as he received a longstanding ovation from about 13,000 or more, people.

When the ovation was over, Dad Hagin told the audience to remain standing. He then said, *"We don't condone sin or agree with sin, but we do believe in forgiveness and restoration."* He told Rev. J.S. that he believed in him.

He went on to tell how he asked the Lord years before why his denomination did not practice Galatians 6:1. It seemed that when someone had a fault, the denomination would help the devil destroy them. The Lord told him that he would find the answer in the verse itself.

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Gal. 6:1)

Dad Hagin said he read that verse about four times before He understood what the Lord was saying. He read, *"Ye which are spiritual."* The Lord said to him, *"If your denomination was spiritual, they would practice that verse."*

Then Dad Hagin had all of us tell Rev. J.S. that we forgave and loved him. He began to weep and cry again. Then Dad Hagin asked Rev. J.S. to say what he wanted. He said with tears, "This is the first time in a year and a half that anyone has said anything kind about me and that they forgave me and loved me." He thanked Dad Hagin and was very grateful to all of us. He was restored and now has a world wide TV network.

That night I witnessed and experienced the love of God in action, and I learned from it. Dad Hagin could have been in strife with him, like many others, for bringing shame to the church world, but he didn't. Many attacked Rev. J.S. profusely for hurting the witness of the church. Dad Hagin didn't, and I didn't either from that day forward. I had said some things I should not have said about him previously, but I repented for my ignorance.

His problem brought much division to the body of Christ. In the church world, people were in strife with one another, and some were angry with one another. Yes, I am referring to Christians, not sinners.

La-T-Da Forgave

There was a convict nicknamed La-T-Da in prison with me in 1983. I received Jesus and was born again on my third escape from prison. I turned myself in and was sent back to prison. I had also been filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in other tongues.

La-T-Da was in prison for murder and had been sentenced to life without parole for his crime. He had arranged for a hidden way to get drugs into the prison without the guards knowledge, and sold them to other convicts. He had a large group of heathens that hung around him, and was involved in homosexuality.

One day, I was praying, and the Lord told me to go tell him that he needed to get his life right with Jesus Christ because his life was short or death was right upon him. He listened briefly, but told me that he could not because of the life he lived in prison.

I found out that he was taken to church when he was younger and had praying grandparents, but he had gone astray. He ended up getting involved with a gang of street hoodlums. They were all involved in a murder, and some were sentenced to death. He was less than 25 years old.

I kept being prompted by the Spirit of God to witness to him from time to time. One day, to my shock and amazement, he came to the prison chapel and was born again. I rejoiced with him, and he was Spirit filled.

He changed instantly and stopped selling drugs and practicing homosexuality. He stopped associating with the heathens he had been hanging around with. Some of them started threatening to kill him if he did not get more drugs for them. He told them he was serving the Lord Jesus and he would not get drugs for them anymore. They kept on telling him they would kill him, but he still refused.

About a month and a half later, he was washing his face at a prison sink. He was getting ready to come to the prison chapel service. One of the convicts who told him he would kill him walked up behind him. He grabbed La-T-Da by the shoulder, spun him around, and stabbed him in the heart with a home-made prison knife. He stabbed him in other areas as well. La-T-Da looked at the convict who stabbed him and told him that he forgave him and loved him. Then he fell dead in a pool of his own blood, which had been pouring out each time his heart pumped. He went to heaven, in the Love of God, from that prison.

The convict who stabbed him to death lost his mind over that. He had to be placed in a prison for the criminally insane. I believe a demon of murder possessed him and motivated him to kill my friend. If a person continues to think evil thoughts about others, the devil can help them hurt someone somehow.

Love God First

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5:5)

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (Matthew 12:30-31)

I am thoroughly convinced, based on the Word of God, that you will not love others, as you should, unless you first love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. People are selfish and mostly concerned about themselves. They want to hurt someone who has hurt them, and they become vindictive, revengeful, resentful, mean-spirited, unkind, and unforgiving. Yes, this applies to Christians too.

You see this principle in the story about Rev. J.S. and Pastor M.G. in this newsletter. They both had well established ministries and had served God for years. It is apparent they quit loving God as they should, before they turned on each other. *When you stop loving God, as you should, you will stop loving others as you should.* You will start finding fault with others and condemning their flaws and shortcomings. You will become spiteful.

Don's Hatred

When I first met Don in prison, I sensed something peculiar about him. My bed was next to his. He was very quiet and stoic, and read his Bible often. We became friends over time, but he didn't talk much. Many months later, he opened up and told me his story of how hatred had put him in prison with life without parole.

Years earlier, he was dating a girl, and she got mad at him and accused him of raping her. He was convicted and sent to prison for five long years. He did not rape her, and he was angry. His anger turned to hatred, and he made the decision that he was going to kill her when he got out. Five years later, he was released. He found out where she lived, got a gun, and went to her house. He knocked on her door, and when she opened it, she turned to run down the hall in horror. He fired the gun over and over, and she fell dead. He heard the sound of an infant and realized a stray bullet had shot a baby. In anguish, he grabbed the baby and tried to save it, but it died in his arms. He began to cry and called the police, telling them what happened. He murdered the mother and baby because of his hatred.

He thought on the wrong things, and eventually the devil took him over. He turned to Jesus Christ and was born again, but he could never forgive himself for what he had done. He told me that he wanted to be punished by staying in prison for the rest of his life. I could never change his mind. *(End)*

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