To Forgive from the Heart

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Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please
Matt 18:35 This is how my heavenly Father
Matt 6:14 If you forgive men their trespasses
Matt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful for they
2 Corinthians 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, he is

- 1 With apostasy increasing in the world, we need to ask God to reveal our *true* spiritual condition and our *real* personality.
- **2** We are to make an uncompromising commitment to *do* the will of God, and then the Holy Spirit will come into our heart as He did with many in the Bible.
- **3** The Spirit cannot take possession of us *against* our will—but He *will* take control when we are committed to *do* God's will.
- **4** We have to be on guard against dangerous delusions that are everywhere today—like *Once Saved Always Saved*.
- **5** Satan will try to have us accept teaching that opposes Bible instruction—and will use such things to have us *tolerate* disobedience to the Word of God.
- 6 The danger is that the longer we *tolerate* rebellion and disobeying the Word, the more *entrenched* they become—we cannot tolerate *either* for a moment. We cannot allow ourselves to make

- even one excuse for not meeting things in the way God's Word says.
- 7 With the Holy Spirit in control, we will be *glad* to meet difficult things in a scriptural way, because when we *take* that attitude, spiritual *growth* will be seen.
- **8** No matter how unjust or unfair someone has treated us, the moment it is met in a scriptural way, our faith in God increases and spiritual fruit results.
- **9** When wrongs are met scripturally, God can make those who treated us wrongly treat us kindly. NKJV **Proverbs 16:7** "When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him"—and many times more our family members will be at peace with us.
- **10** We have to be in a scriptural *position* and to take a Christ-like *attitude* concerning situations at work, in the home, with friends, and everywhere.
- 11 When we take a right attitude, things will *look* different—and we will see how valuable these spiritual *lessons* really are.
- 12 We will consider it a divine *privilege* to be shown any wrong attitude, and we will *thank* the Lord for helping us get rid of such destructive *ways*, because such attitudes will take us in the *wrong direction* to the *wrong destination*.
- 13 The first part of our commitment to obey the Word is that with any aspect of life needing a response, we are to ask ourselves what the *Bible* says about it and be willing to *do* it.
- **14** There would be many millions less in the lake of fire pleading for a drop of water, if they had asked themselves that same question and been willing to *do* what God's Word says.
- 15 The next phase of our commitment to do God's will is to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to *stay* committed—and He enables us to follow through in the right way.
- **16** NIV Acts **5:32** "We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has

- given to those who obey him." Without seeing or feeling anything, we just accept the Word in faith that the Spirit of God is in our heart and controlling our responses.
- **17** Another aspect of being committed to remain in the will of God—and on which our hope of Heaven *hinges*—is to meet even *minor* details of life according to *Bible* instructions.
- **18** Too many times, we allowed ourselves to be *upset* and *resentful* over things that could have *benefited* us—had we met them *scripturally*.
- 19 Every situation met in God's way will strengthen us spiritually and enable God to give us more of the blessings He *wants* to give—peace, protection, foods, and fuel for the home and vehicle. *It is* our inheritance that we should claim, receive, and enjoy.
- **20** God does *not* want us to experience pain, poverty, or problems; He does *not* want us to have trials, troubles, and tribulations, but He wants us to have the *opposite* by our meeting things right.
- **21** The reason mean things are said or done to us, or why we meet with a financial battle, is to *teach* us a lesson and *lead* us into the center of God's will.
- 22 It is to *perfect* our faith in God on the issue and to eliminate any *self*-plan on which we *had* depended. It is the *purpose* of difficulties—and if they are met right, it will *correct* the trouble; but if they are *not* met right, they confirm our *wrong attitude* on the issue and lead us in the *wrong direction*.
- 23 All such things are connected to *eternal* life—as eternity is linked to how things are met in this life and if we are *willing* to carry through as God's Word says.
- 24 No matter what has taken place or what anyone has said to us, there must be no resentment in our heart against that person.
- **25** We all act natural around the home, and this reminds us of the *four personalities* we have

- 1. What the outside *world* thinks we are by our outward appearance and behavior; 2. What our *family* knows by living in the house with us; 3. What we think *ourselves* to be; 4. What *God* knows of us—which is the real personality!
- 26 Only He really knows what is in our heart, and whether there is any worldly attitude that has to be *driven out*. When that wrong attitude is gone, God takes its place—resulting in a *big change* of attitude because a new *person* is born.
- 27 God has a plan for every life, and no one has a right to live any differently. The devil can *ruin* the *best* person; and God can *change* the *worst* person.
- **28** God will bring about a *huge change* if even one person in the home will meet things right. NKJV **2 Corinthians 5:17** "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
- **29** With any wrong treatment from anyone—at work, in the home, on the playing field, with fellow believers or friends—we are not to change our attitude toward them.
- **30** We are *not* to blame the individual from whom the insult, injustice, or unfair treatment came, but we are to blame the *devil*—who is in back of every mean thing done to us.
- **31** We may have *helped* someone but they ignore us or *refuse* to help us. They may return *evil* for the *good* we did them. If that happens the devil suggests—Is that how they appreciate what you did for them? Is that all the thanks you get?
- **32** All such wrong responses are against Bible teaching and example. NKJV Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
- **33** Such offenses are valuable opportunities for us to follow our Lord and Savior—and to walk in His very footsteps.

- **34** We should say: If *I* forgive that person *God* forgives *me*. NIV **Ephesians 4:32** "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ **God forgave you**."
- **35** The *blessings* that God wants us to enjoy result from meeting things like a *believer*—and the *problems* we encounter result from meeting things like an *unbeliever*.
- **36** The key is having the Holy Spirit to *control* our responses, because the devil *wants* to control us.
- **37** Eternal life is hard-wired to meeting things as God's Word says, as it involves *acting faith* in Jesus—which is the only *valid faith*.
- **38** We are to trust God to correct any wrongs done to us—meeting it in a scriptural way no matter *what* the situation or *who* it involved.
- **39** AV **Philippians 4:9** "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do!**"
- 40 All difficult situations *met* will show us whether we *met* them in the *Bible* way—or in the *world's* way.
- **41** Insults and offenses we encounter are for our learning Scriptural responses. They are not pleasant to encounter, but they are *learning* opportunities to take advantage of.
- **42** Not many people in the world have their sins forgiven!
- 43 That is worth pondering—if their sins are not forgiven, their entrance into Heaven is not possible.
- 44 The unforgiving servant Matthew 18 would not forgive even a minor debt, so he was 34 "delivered him to the tormentors." Jesus then said, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."
- 45 Great spiritual benefits in this life and the entrance into eternal life will be received if we

- forgive people from the heart when they wrong us. Forgiving our enemies is directly connected to *entering* God's kingdom.
- **46** We have *all sinned* so we *all need forgiveness* and *mercy*, and only God can give them to us.
- 47 AV Ephesians 2:4 "God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us." Our part in receiving God's mercy—AV Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."
- 48 Whenever we are wronged by someone and we truly *forgive* them from the *heart*, they could become our *friend*.
- **49** The spiritual value that results from responding with *forgiveness* and *mercy* is greater than can be described in words—it includes Heaven forever.
- **50** Forgiving everyone from the heart by the power of the Spirit of God, is the only way we *can* forgive.
- **51** Forgiving a person and not bringing the matter up again and not discussing it with anyone again—that is what it means To Forgive from the Heart!



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