

December 22, 2020

Empowered to Forgive

Shalom,

We have all been equipped by God with amazing potential, for we are created in His likeness and in His image, but I believe that one of the greatest attributes of YHWH that He placed in us is that we are empowered to forgive out of a heart of love that He has placed in us.

*So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16 ESV)*

We have received of His love and the power it releases in our lives.

*... and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.** (Romans 5:5 ESV)*

*But Yeshua was saying, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."** Then they cast lots, dividing up His clothing. (Luke 23:34 TLV)*

The Torah portion named **Vayigash**, or **"And he approached"** is found in **Genesis 44:18—47:27**. The forgiveness shown by God through Joseph in this portion is a glimpse of the grace and forgiveness of God that is available in Jesus the Messiah to all who believe. Moreover, we can see that **the plan of YHWH is that all who believe will, as new creations, receive the forgiveness provided for them from the foundation of the world.**

Joseph, a type of Yeshua the Messiah, was anointed by the power of the Holy Spirit to be used as God's means of salvation. Dreams were given to him to prepare, not only him, but also his brothers to receive the deliverance prepared in advance for them. Ten of his brothers, patriarchs over tribes of Israel, were blinded to God's gift to them, and instead of receiving what God was showing them through Joseph's telling of the dreams, reacted in the flesh and rejected what God had supplied.

Joseph, a type and shadow of Jesus the Messiah, was sent by God but was rejected by men. His own brothers ridiculed, persecuted, abused, and betrayed him. They, by their deeds, disqualified themselves from God's gracious provision, but **through the same anointing given to Joseph to save them from famine, he was also able to show amazing forgiveness to his brothers.** **Forgiveness is so supernatural and perfect that it restores what was lost through sin.** The wages of sin were canceled, and the gift of God was restored.

I am so glad that I have learned that I am forgiven. No matter how bad I miss it, nor how serious my offense, I am assured that if I am willing to acknowledge my sin, I can take God's unconditional forgiveness that is **already given**. I only need to trust His Word and receive it. God's forgiveness does not just cover my sins, but also remits them, or sends them away to never be remembered again.

The Word of God clearly states that we are forgiven and made righteous through the blood of Jesus Who gave Himself for us. **What we are prone to miss, if we walk and think naturally, is that once we are forgiven and reborn by the Spirit of God, our new nature is united with the Father and Jesus so that we are created to live and love in the same way that God does.**

Forgiveness is not something God decides to do on a case-by-case basis. He is Love, always has been, and always will be.

He chose us in the Messiah before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love. (Ephesians 1:4 TLV)

His forgiveness for us had to be an eternal fact (before the foundation of the world) for us to be chosen in the Messiah. God's nature of love is always manifest in **perpetual, unilateral forgiveness**, never based on the worthiness of the one to whom it is extended. From His heart of love, forgiveness always flows toward men, and because of our relationship in Him, He provides that same love flowing through us, to always choose to live in an attitude of unilateral forgiveness, not waiting to forgive if we deem it deserved, but always extending grace, love, and forgiveness to everyone without exception just as our Father does.

This teaching from Scripture is vitally important and must not be ignored nor delayed in our lives. It separates those who genuinely love God from those who just do lip-service to a religious code. Unforgiveness is an area that is crippling the ability of many to bear much fruit and should be given high priority as it is ministered to us by the correction of the Holy Spirit. Don't allow hard-heartedness to keep you from God's best. We are supernaturally empowered to love as Yeshua loves and forgive from the heart, but we must choose to love and forgive in every circumstance. No exceptions! Don't just say you have forgiven. See to it from your heart by totally releasing any who have wronged you. As much as it depends on you, keep yourself at peace with everyone.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 ESV)

Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your transgressions." (Mark 11:25 TLV)

God will help you. He will take hold with you against the spirit of unforgiveness until you take your victory. It is by the anointing of God's Spirit in us as New Creations in Messiah Yeshua, that we are empowered by the Spirit of God to hear with the Father and carry out the works of Jesus, never as religion, but by an entirely new way of living in the reality of the Name and presence of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Forgiven and forgiving,
Merry Christmas!
Terry