\*THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS\*

 \*"Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him and if he repent, forgive him".\*

Luke 17:3.

The message of today focuses on forgiveness.

Forgiveness has been defined as the conscious and deliberate decision to release feeling of resentment and vengeance towards a person or group of persons who have hurt you regardless of the fact that they have apologised or not.

In Greek, the word "Forgiveness is translated to mean: "to let go".

Little wonder Jesus gave us the parable of a king who wishes to settle account with his servants in the book of \*Matthew 18:23-35.\*

Without doubt, forgiving could be the most difficult thing to do; especially when you are still hurting of what has been done to you.

However, as a believer, the bible says:

 \*"But if you do not forgive others of their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"\*

Matthew 6:15

In otherwords, whoever wants his sins to be forgiven must first forgive everyone who might have wronged him.

In every relationship in life, there is bound to be friction and disagreements between people.

However, the engine oil of every relationship is the power of forgiveness.

Although, it is easier said than done. Forgiving could be a struggle but is a necessity for all.

I was told of one true life story that buttresses the importance of forgiving anyone who wrongs us.

This incident happened to a great man of God that has gone to be with the Lord;

According to the report; he had a disagreement with another man of God and the issue lingered on for long and the pair of them never had the chance to reconcile until he went into coma almost to the point of death.

In the process, God appeared to him and told him about his resentment towards the other person, that if He allows him to die at that point he wouldn't have made heaven; but by reason of the good service he had rendered concerning the Church of God, He would give him chance to reconcile and forgive the other fellow before taking him home.

What a rare privilege, that only comes once in a million times.

The bible says:

 "if it is possible; as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

\*Romans 12:18.\*

Forgiveness, is a necessary virtue for all believers to have or emulate.

 \*"Be kind to everyone, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,as God in Christ forgave you".\*

Ephesians 4:32

In all honesty, it could be very hard to forget certain things.

Hence, the saying I forgave but I did not forget.

From the teachings of our Lord Jesus, it is apparent that forgiving is a must.

To this end, some people wilfully take things for granted that they exploit the Grace of forgiveness by continuously wronging others and thereafter hidding behind the shield of forgiveness.

The bible says shall we continue in sin and expect grace to abound? God forbids.

\*Roman 6:1&2.\*

Trust is being damaged in any relationship where one person persistently offends the other.

Trust is the bedrock of every relationship in life and it must be well protected.

When any relationship experiences any form of mistrust, then the issue of forgiveness will be very difficult.

It will take time before one can regain or grow confidence in any relationship with the same person that has betrayed the trust.

Jesus Christ demonstrated this point in the parable of the talents; the servant that buried the one talent given to him was rebuked by his master and the talent was taken from him and given to another.

 \*Matthew 25:14-30\*

The bible says:

 \*"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it".\*

Prov 22:3.

There is no point trying to sugar- coat it:

 \*"what is bad is bad; there is no other name for it".\*

Forgiveness, should not be used as freedom to wrong or offend another person unnecessarily.

That's why Jesus said:

"If your brother offends you; rebuke him and if he repents then forgive him

 \*Luke 17:3\*

The bible says:

 \*"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter".\*

Isaiah 5:20.

There is an aberration that is quite prevalent now, even in the Christendom.

When elderly or people in authority use their age, title and position to trample or wilfully infringe on other person's rights: especially towards people under them without any form of remorse.

Such people often refuse to apologize or accept their mistakes.

\*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them.."\*

Ephesians 6:4.

It is an abuse of position and God does not condone such.

 \*"For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.\*

Hebrews 10:26.

Lately, I attended a Christian wake-keeping of the father of a family friend and one of the things that someone spoke about concerning the deceased man got tears out of my eyes;

The man said:

"Papa called me one day and said he was sorry for how he treated me and to compensate for it; he paid all my medical bills and supported me".

Such act of remorse and admission is very rare in this world.

We should all learn to say "sorry" more.

In our society, it is like it's a taboo for an elderly person or anyone in a higher position to apologise to a lower fellow, when they have wronged them.

Apologising does not always means that you are wrong; it only confirms who values the relationship more.

Willingness to apologize, fosters a strong relationship between two or more people.

 \*"If you, Lord kept the record of sins, Lord who could stand?".\*

Psalm 130:3

Consequently, we all need God to forgive us of our sins, hence we should cultivate the habit of being quick to forgive others.

Peter asked Jesus Christ:

" \*How many times should I forgive my fellow brother who sins against me, up to seven times?\*

Jesus replied him:" \*I tell you not seven times but seventy times seven"\* .

 \*Matthew 18:21&22.\*

Meaning, you should not keep records of the amount of times your fellow brother has wronged you;

Just keep forgiving. Someone once said, he forgives in advance!

The \*Lord's prayer\* says;

\*"If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you".\*

Matthew 6:14.

\*Prayer\*: Father, please grant me the \*Grace\* to forgive everyone that might have wronged me in Jesus name. 🙏🏼

The word of God is growing day by day; read more on:

www.soulsforgod.com

JESUS Reigns.

Signed, Bro Cole