



How to Develop A Spirit of Forgiveness

- A spirit of forgiveness is having a greater desire to help someone after he offends us than we had before he offended us.

1. Visualize all those who have deeply hurt or offended you.

- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Step-Parents
- ☐ Brothers / Sisters
- ☐ Grandparents
- ☐ Employers
- ☐ Associates
- ☐ Neighbors
- ☐ Salesmen
- ☐ Local Authorities
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Sons / Daughters
- ☐ Relatives
- ☐ Teachers
- ☐ Church Leaders

List those who have offended you

Offenders	How They Offended Me



2. Realize that God can use the actions of your offender for good in your life.

As long as we think that the one who hurts us is acting independently, we can hardly help growing bitter. But as long as we realize that God "raised him up" for a specific purpose in our lives, we will be able to gain a forgiving spirit. They may think evil against us, but God means it for good. (Genesis 50:20) "Surely the wrath at man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." (Psalm 76:10)

3. Thank God for the benefit He plans through each offense

God's command to give thanks in all things is especially essential at this point. (I Thessalonians 5:18) We don't have to be thankful in order to thank God. Thanking God is an act of the will. Being thankful is an act of the emotions.

When our lives are dedicated to God, He puts a protective wall around us so that nothing can touch us except that which God permits. He permits it for a purpose, and this purpose is for our ultimate joy and reward. It is for this reason we can thank God for each offense.

4. Recall the failures for which God should judge you

- ☐ Ungratefulness
- ☐ Strong will
- ☐ Getting angry at
- ☐ Speaking harshly to
- ☐ Criticizing
- ☐ Lying and deceiving
- ☐ Disobeying
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



5. Discern what character qualities you want to develop in me through the offense

When we wrongly react to an offender, we are revealing various lacks of character which need to be developed such as love, meekness, patience, faith, gentleness, self-control, etc. Even if we respond correctly to an offender, other qualities will have to be strengthened such as joy, peace, godliness, etc.

6. Fully forgive your offenders

Offenders	Date Forgiven	Treasures I can voluntarily invest

Possible ways to benefit your offender:

CAN I ...

- ☐ Pray for him
- ☐ Be friendly toward him
- ☐ Praise his positive qualities
- ☐ Defend him to others
- ☐ Express any appreciation to him
- ☐ Remove any pressure from him
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



7. Expect to suffer for doing right as a normal part of Christian living

Many of us have the mistaken Idea that if we are a Christian we won't have to suffer, yet the Scripture clearly states, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." (Philippians 1:29) "Yea. and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Timothy 3:12) "If we suffer we shall also reign with Him." (II Timothy 2:12)