

'NEW LIFE HEALING CENTRE'

(The Bethel)

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAYMOND

I have learnt this week that the word 'unforgiveness' isn't easily accepted when writing on the lap top. Also in consulting the 'Collins English Dictionary' I also found the word 'unforgiveness' isn't recorded. With this in mind it made me think, at times, in using 'church language' we find that we use words which are not always accurate. In looking at the word 'unforgiveness' in the context that we are saying that those hurts we hold have not been dealt with under the work of the Holy Spirit, so we say we are holding unforgiveness to that person or situation. In looking at the language we use everyday, it is clear now that we have either 'forgiven' those who have hurt us, or we have not forgiven them. So, in looking at the things in life that have hurt us we have either 'forgiven' or continue to still hold on to those hurts. Therefore it is right for us to say that we have or have not 'forgiven'. We have either dealt with these areas or we haven't. But one thing is sure today we don't harbour unforgiveness', it is either forgiven or not.

In this light I think we can honestly say that within us it is black or white. If we haven't 'forgiven' then now is our time. If we have 'forgiven' then we are able to walk free under this 'forgiveness'. Having said all this I trust that this will help us all in understanding our hurts and in the clear cut way God enables us to forgive or not to forgive. But one thing comes from this is that we cannot hold on to 'unforgiveness'. Today if there is any 'forgiving' done may God give us all the grace (favour) to do so. In Jesus Name.

People today are 'hurting'. We need to know who is able to heal our hurts. Clinics are bursting at the seams of people who are 'seeking help'. They need someone to talk to, someone who can help them. Hurt can go deep. When we are hurt or hurting our emotions become affected but it doesn't stop there. The hurt goes deep down into our 'spirits', into our inner being. As our spirits become grieved and wounded, over a long period of time being repeatedly hurt, our spirit will become weakened and broken. People today, young children and older people, are living with an intense amount of hurt, having been physically or verbally abused, neglected, or rejected, having experienced hurt after hurt their spirit (inner being) has become crushed and broken, feeling unloved and unwanted. This can happen at any age, but when this happens at a young age it can shape and mould them for their future.

At times people are told that they are unwanted, verbal abuse, being continually humiliated and ridiculed, develop an extremely low esteem, that they easily give up and stop trying to accomplish anything. Bullying is another area in which 'low self esteem' grows. If someone is attacked over and over again with cruel words, vicious words, in time they begin to believe what they are hearing. Let us look at parents talking to their children. Words like - "You are so clumsy", "Why can't you do anything right?" or "You are so stupid you will never amount to anything", "I wish you had never been born". These words are all too often said to children. Also husbands and wives speak similar words as do, at times, children to parents. Using these kind of words 'spirits are broken'. This brings about deep wounds of rejection, losing self-esteem and self worth. Not does it stop there but a root of bitterness, anger and resentment spring up towards these people.

This can take hold of any one of us unless we receive God's healing touch. Without it we can carry these deep hurts and wounds with us throughout our earthly life. Physical, mental abuse, unless treated by God, leave us broken in spirit unable to be the person who God says we can be, unable to live a life of peace and serenity. This is why we all need to hear about a **God of Love** who desires to heal all of our pain, physical, mental, emotional, in what ever way we have been hurt, that we might all know the healing free-giving power of God.

Living with all of these hurts effects our relationships, within family, within marriages, within the church, often leading to people being unable to live with each other. In Jesus Christ, when we receive and accept Him as our Saviour, we were healed totally and completely from the curse of sin. It is only in Christ Jesus that we are able to experience total healing and wholeness. Other methods help but leave something not quite complete, always the chance of it returning. Hence we need to know Christ, for in Christ Jesus the power of sin was broken over us, in Christ we are and we were totally cleansed of all our sins, and God placed His Spirit within us.

As we draw closer to Easter, entering Lent, now we do well to reflect upon the understanding that Jesus paid the price on the cross, and in so doing, the work of forgiveness and healing has already been finished.

Isaiah 53 v 4-5 states, "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we were healed".

Thank you Jesus. Minister these words of yours and your act of obedience unto death for me today. In Jesus Name . . .
AMEN.