

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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Evidences of Hope

*“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, **so also do ye**. And above all things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God **rule** in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in **one body**; and be ye thankful”*
(Colo. 3: 12-15).

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus, of whom we have to do, by the divine determined purpose of HE who worketh ALL things according to His own will: Over the years of walking among the inhabitants of Zion with many experiences to draw from, I have concluded this one thing among many, that in my attempts to evaluate those whom profess a hope in Christ as being “genuine” in their confession, I have been led to look for “FRUIT”, and that of the SPIRIT.

I am persuaded that ALL of God’s children have the “FRUIT” of the Spirit, yet some in greater measure than others as we grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, ALL shall bear the “FRUIT” that is of God by the Spirit, for this is the TEST of determining the source of the TREE.

FOREGIVENESS is one of the greatest demonstrations of Christ love in the believer. “And when ye stand praying, FORGIVE, if ye have ought against any; that your heavenly Father which is in heaven may FORGIVE you your trespasses. But if you DO NOT forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses”
(Mark 11:25-26).

“And if he trespass against thee **SEVEN TIMES A DAY**, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent,; **thou shalt forgive him**”(Luke 17:4).....Our Lord Jesus Christ gave NO alternative to this command! “And be ye kind one to another,

tenderhearted, **FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

If there is a major supernatural characteristic in the born again Christian, it is the God-given ability to **forgive** others who have brought an ought against us whether they think it being justified or not. When the heir of grace has been divinely revealed the unmerited favor of God and removal of ALL our transgressions, as far as the East is from the West, how can it be that we could have an "**UNFORGIVING**" attitude within us? As the scriptural record of the "Unjust Stewart", Christ gave the analogy of one that was FORGIVEN all his debt, yet was unkind, begrudging, revengeful, and unforgiving of one that owed him much. How is it that God's people can hold bitter grudges and an unforgiving attitude towards those that we had in times past walked in sweet accord? I am convinced this is **not of Christ**, but emulates from the **pride of man**. We, by gospel promise have a HOPE of forgiveness of sin and life immortal yet hold grudges and an unforgiving heart towards those that have wounded feelings or insulted our position of scriptural understanding.

I have experienced numerous times in my journey through Christendom, being hurt by the words and harshness of others, and forgiveness does not often come easy, yet in time as I am brought to mind Christ's admonition(s), I am **caused to forgive** as I reflect upon the example of our heavenly Father's mercy and divine forgiveness granted us through Christ Jesus.

I am writing this as my heart is grieved over some discord that has developed over time among brethren who at one time walked together in love and fellowship in the gospel. Yet, now it appears that Satan has gained an advantage and brought division among those that once embraced one another in bonds of Christ love.

I must confess, that for me, to be brought to forgive one that has hurt, and despitefully mistreated me is one thing, but to **forget** the offence is something that took time as grace was granted. Oh! Yes, I FORGAVE, but the feelings of my heart and mind lingered for some time. It is like once you have been wounded deeply emotionally by an unfaithful spouse or similar experience, trust has been disrupted and an arrow of doubt has been plunged into your heart. Therefore, in our mind we feel that TRUST must be proven as a defensive mechanism against being wounded again...and time seems to be the proof of trustworthiness. O God, make such time short, and re-establish loving joy among the one's that hurt inside, heal our hearts and apply thy Balm of grace upon wounds and hurts.

Oh! God my dear Saviour, as short as time appears to be here below in this low ground of sin and sorrow, help us poor pilgrims and sojourners to be merciful one to another, to die daily and take up our cross and follow after thee.

“Lord, desolve my frozen heart by the beams of love divine,
This alone can warmeth impart, to dissolve a heart like mine.

O that love, how vast it is! Vast it seems, though know in part;
Strange indeed, if love like this should not melt the frozen heart.

Saviour, let thy love be felt, Let its power be felt by me,
Then my frozen heart shall melt, Melt in love, O Lord...”

Gadsby Hymnal #1117

Respectfully Submitted