

The Decision To Forgive



The Decision Is Yours (Day 16)
by Derek Prince

We are now going to focus on another vitally important decision—the decision to forgive. Perhaps you are surprised that I call that a decision.

I want to deal first with the relationship between forgiving and getting our prayers answered. It's much closer than many people imagine. In Mark 11, verses 24 and 25, Jesus speaks about how to receive the answers to our prayers but He then goes on to warn us about one thing that will block the answer to our prayers. This is what He says:

> "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. [Notice, the time to receive the answer to your prayers is when you pray— '...believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.' The manifestation of what you have received will follow in due course. That's wonderful but now comes the warning.] And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Jesus warns us there that failure to forgive other people can block the answer to our prayers. Maybe some of you have been praying a long time and saying, "Why doesn't God answer my prayer?" I suggest you need to check whether there's someone you need to forgive. Failure to forgive blocks the answers to our prayers. That's very important to remember.

Then, remember, as I've said already, forgiving is a decision, not an emotion. You don't have to feel forgiving; you have to will to forgive.

And then, another very important point brought out by those words of Jesus, the initiative is with us, not with other people. If you hold anything against anyone, forgive him. Jesus doesn't say, "When he comes up to you and asks to be forgiven, forgive him." But He says, "When you're praying—in fact, before you begin to pray, make sure you've forgiven everyone against whom you have anything."

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And then Jesus says at the end, "...so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." You see, the way we relate to others determines the way that God relates to us. If we have totally forgiven others, we can ask for total forgiveness from God; but if we withhold forgiveness from others, God will withhold forgiveness from us.

Devotional

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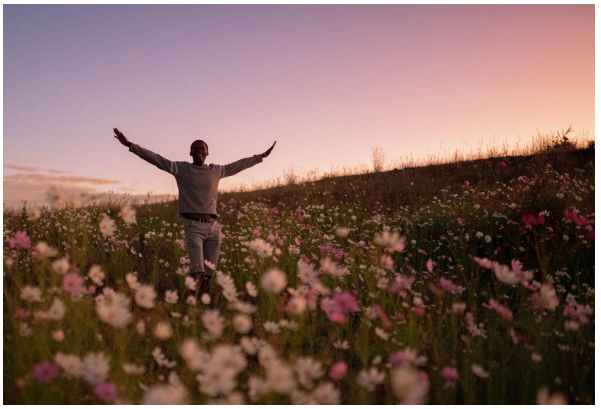

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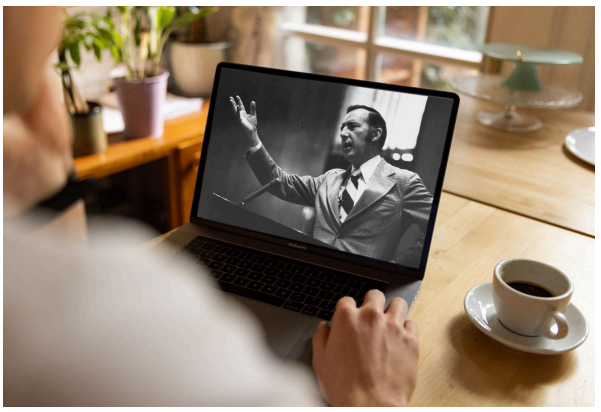

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