As we go through this webinar, keep in mind that only about 10% of Christians are experiencing their freedom in Christ that has been provided for them. And if they are not experiencing their freedom it means that they have an addictive behavior. It may not be to sex, drugs or alcohol. It could be eating disorder, codependency, gambling, workaholism, perfectionism, materialism, performance-based acceptance, etc., etc.
Unforgiveness is most likely Satan’s #1 weapon to keep Christians from experiencing their freedom in Christ. Everyone without exception gets angry and God’s only solution is forgiveness. You cannot decide not to get angry as it is a normal emotional response to life when things don’t go your way and when people wrong you, abuse you, betray you, and take advantage of you and/or molest you.
The right answer to the first two is that the #1 way Satan robs you of your freedom and the way he keeps you in bondage is when you are angry and don’t forgive those who have hurt you. The right answer for the rest is FORGIVENESS. It’s the most liberating thing you can do. It is the greatest spiritual warfare you can do & causes the greatest defeat of Satan in your life. And Jesus died for the forgiveness of your sins and that is one of the major things it accomplished. Forgiveness of sins is available to all who will receive it.
When we have been wronged, hurt, abused, taken advantage of, molested, etc. Satan uses it to make us feel insecure, inadequate, inferior, guilty, no good, unworthy, unaccepted and unloved, etc. Those feelings become our identity in the flesh and as long as we believe this about ourselves, we will be in bondage. We will believe these lies about ourselves until we forgive those who have hurt us. These lies keep us in bondage and we will never get free until we believe the truth of who we are in Christ. Forgiveness frees us from those lies that keep us in bondage.
In the book Mike tells the story of a couple, who had divorced and the man had moved in with a younger woman (pages 53, 54). They later remarried but the wife was unable to forgive him and it would lead to psychotic episodes in which she would lose touch with reality and go on alcoholic binges. Many times she ended up in a mental institution. Once she told Mike that she knew when an episode was coming on, but she was unwilling to do anything about it. This beautiful and gifted Christian woman went to her grave not having found her freedom because she was unwilling to forgive her husband.
Why is it so Hard to Forgive? We Want Justice

(REALLY? If so we’re in deep trouble
Don’t judge or you’ll be judged (Matt. 7:1)
Who are we to judge another?
Unforgiveness is the opposite of grace
Grace cannot exist apart from sin
Unforgiveness = Anger and bitterness,
And Keeps us in bondage

"Forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you". (Eph. 4:32)

❤️ Do we really want justice?
❤️ God forbid that He gives us justice
❤️ I want mercy, grace and forgiveness
❤️ No, I think most want revenge.
❤️ We have been forgiven of all our sins and given eternal life freely - gratis, all of grace.
❤️ When we don’t forgive it’s like putting a dollar in a vending machine to get a coke and get nothing
❤️ Then we go into a rage and trash the machine for the injustice done to us
❤️ God has forgiven all your sins. Can you forgive those who have wronged and hurt you?
No one can live life without being hurt, wronged, taken advantage of, abused & some betrayed and molested.

AA says HALT. Don’t get hungry, angry, lonely or tired. Not bad advice, but

You cannot decide to not get angry when it happens to you. It is an emotional response.

God says, “Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,” (Eph. 4:26)

Forgive before the sun goes down

To be angry is not the problem. It is what you do with it. God knows that we all get angry. It’s part of being human and living in a body of flesh in this fallen world that Satan rules.
One of the most liberating and life changing truths is that there is no more condemnation, guilt, shame or punishment (Rom. 8:1).

BUT every Christian struggling with an addictive behavior is living under a false sense of condemnation.

It is a very effective tool of Satan to keep us in bondage.

BUT any condemnation, guilt or shame we feel is false (a lie from Satan to keep us in bondage)

There is no condemnation as the last judgment was at the cross

Are you guilty for the sins you that you commit

NOT UNLESS THE CROSS DID NOT WORK

AND praise God it did. IT IS FINISHED!!!
If you are angry and haven’t forgiven there is bondage in your life and it will only be broken when you forgive.

It’s why one of Satan’s greatest weapons to keep you in bondage is to keep you from forgiving when you get angry.

That’s why forgiveness is the greatest spiritual warfare you will ever do and the most liberating thing you will ever do.

God has only one remedy for anger and it is forgiveness.

We gladly receive our forgiveness from God, but do not as gladly give it to those who have wronged and hurt us.
Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters (Rom. 14:1)

But you can’t accept someone until you have forgiven them.

This is particularly true in ministry. You may be the best counselor in the world, but they will not be able to receive until they know you accept them.

The #1 thing to remember in ministry is that people don’t care what you know until they know that you care.

This is a challenge when we try to minister to those struggling with an addictive behavior.

As it is so easy to judge them by their behavior.

But 2 Cor. 5:16 says From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. NO ONE!!!
A counselor at Grace Ministries International was depressed and his serotonin levels were out of whack so he was put on anti-depressants. But when he forgave those who had hurt him his depression went away and he no longer needed anti-depressants.

Depression is almost always repressed anger - either at someone else or yourself.

Most alcoholics and addicts are depressed.

It is one of the reasons they abuse substances (to get relief from the emotional pain that is from anger and unforgiveness).

The only relief from emotional pain is to know THE TRUTH of Christ in you who is your life.

And that is a struggle to believe the truth because most everything else testifies against it.
We don’t accept ourselves because we look at our behavior.

To accept yourself you must look to the cross and know you are accepted and forgiven.

To do that you must forgive yourself. To forgive yourself is to receive God’s forgiveness.

Then you will be able to forgive and accept others, but not until you forgive yourself.

Ruth Graham says that a good marriage is made up of two good forgivers.

Unforgiveness keeps us locked in the past and unable to move on with our lives.

I had a friend who couldn’t forgive his wife for divorcing him although it was because of his drunkenness. He was totally bound in anger and resentment and died of alcoholism.
Do you accept yourself just the way you are? If not, you’re not free.
And you need to forgive and accept yourself.
What we don’t have we can’t give to others.
The reason we are judgmental is that we have judged ourselves for not measuring up
And we treat others the same way we treat ourselves
When you really forgive and accept yourself then you will be able to accept others.
It changed all my relationships overnight because if I could accept myself I could accept others.
If we will stop regarding others by their flesh & judging them, then we will be able to accept them.
Most tend to justify or explain their parent’s bad behavior.
You’re not assigning guilt, but saying what you did hurt and I forgive you
We may not feel angry or say we don’t, but we’re good at denial & stuffing emotions
You don’t need to ask God to forgive them. He already has, but they may not have received it.
Pray for the person, but you still need to forgive. To say “let’s forget it dodges the issue and passage of time doesn’t remove anger.
Reconciliation doesn’t always take place. It takes two to restore a relationship, but it only takes one to forgive.
When you do forgive it is you who will walk out of the prison. You set yourself free.

Forgiveness is Not

- Tolerating sin
- When you don’t pursue revenge
- Justifying or explaining behavior
- Assigning guilt
- When you don’t feel angry
- Asking God to forgive
- Acting like you’re not angry anymore
- Praying for the person
- Saying, Let’s forget it
- Brought about by the passage of time
- Does not mean a relationship is restored
- Forgetting the offense
On page 80 in the book is a testimony of a man who had been
1) Hospitalized 5 times for manic depression
2) Had shock treatment and attempted suicide twice
3) Spent over 30 years in prison
4) Been in Drug & alcohol treatment 28 times
5) Lived under bridges for several years BUT when he forgave the people who had hurt him
6) The depression lifted and he found his freedom.
7) It didn’t take a long time, but happened the day he forgave them.

❤️ Forgiveness is that powerful and liberating and unforgiveness is that enslaving
Forgiveness is probably the hardest thing you will ever do,
But keep in mind that you are not forgiving on a physical plane,
But on a spiritual plane. Forgiveness is something that is done in the spirit by the heart. In your heart, you are a lover & forgiver.
To not forgive is to deny who you are (Christ in you) and live a lie
Christ is your life and you are a spiritual being who lives in a body. You are one spirit with Christ (1 Cor. 6:17).
Can you trust yourself (Christ in you) to forgive?
It will be the hardest thing that most will do, but it will give the greatest benefit.

Forgiveness gives you freedom.

One of the main reasons people don’t forgive is that they don’t know who they are.

Do you know who you are in Christ?

Do you know that the old self you were is crucified, dead, buried and no more.

Do you know that you are dead to sin and freed from it?

Do you know Christ is living in you and is your life?

Do you know that you are one Spirit with Him?

How can you not forgive?

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<tr>
<th>Two Things Have to Happen before you can be free</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) <strong>You must forgive those who have hurt you and</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2) <strong>You must see your past in the light of who you are in Christ</strong></td>
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When we forgive someone and release them we discover that we are the ones who have been freed. We are the ones who have been imprisoned and have been set free.

You have a choice - to forgive or not.

Don’t say you can’t forgive. Of course you can. Who are you? Is Christ your life?

You are a forgiver. Forgive and experience the freedom that is yours in Christ.

It is true that you have to know who you are in Christ to be free, but you can’t deal with the lies you believe about yourself until you forgive.

We believe the lies about who we are based on the wrongs and abuses that were done to us.

We believe we are insecure, inferior, inadequate, guilty, unloved and unaccepted.
And that is what keeps us in bondage.
If God has forgiven you of all your sins, past, present and future - every last one of them
And you are totally free to live in complete freedom, peace and joy,
Can you forgive the sins that have been done against you?
Of course you can, but will you?
Can you trust Christ in you (your Life) to forgive and release those who have hurt you?

"forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you". (Eph. 4:32)
Remember that you are under grace and not under law. Don’t put yourself under law by not forgiving them

“For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.” (Rom. 6:14 NIV). But when you don’t forgive you move under law and in bondage

The reason it is so hard to forgive is that it is Satan’s most powerful weapon to keep you in bondage. You don’t forgive if you believe lies.

You are free as freedom is your birthright as a child of God, but if you choose to live under law by not forgiving, you don’t experience it.

Your life and what happens to you is not determined by what others do, but Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Steps to Forgiveness

1. Ask God to show you who to forgive
2. Face the hurt and hate – painful emotions
3. Forgive for how it made you feel
4. Decide to bear the burden of sin
5. Take it to the cross – it is already forgiven
6. Forgiveness is now a choice
7. FORGIVE – what was done to you & how it made you feel. Don’t say you can’t. Who are you? Is Christ your life? Does He live in you? Are you in Christ? You are a lover. You are a forgiver.

1. God wants you to be free, He will show you
2. Write down the name, what they did to you & how it made you feel.
3. Forgive for what they did and how it made you feel (this is vital as a lot of your false identity comes from the hurts)
4. Decide to bear it (carrying about in your body the death of Jesus)
5. Jesus has paid the price for forgiveness.
6. Now it is up to you. Will you forgive? The only reason you will not is because Satan has deceived you.
7. Christ in you will forgive them. By faith you can forgive them as Jesus and Stephen forgave those who were killing them.
The issue is not what they did to hurt you
It’s not that they were wrong and you were right
It has nothing to do with wrong and right
It has everything to do with what Christ did on the cross
And who Christ is in you
It is not if they deserve to be forgiven
Did you or I deserve to be forgiven?
Do you really know who you are in Christ?!?!
This is as good a test if any – will you forgive?
If you wait until you feel like forgiving you will go to your grave with bitterness, resentment and anger that has robbed you of your freedom

The only way that you can truly forgive
Has nothing to do with feelings
It has nothing to do with the past
It has nothing to do what was done to you
BUT it has everything to do with who you are. Who are you?
You are Christ in you. You are a forgiver
That is what you do. You are a lover
It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Don’t miss out on your freedom. Jesus has set you free. Don’t hold on to grudges that will rob you of your freedom.

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.” (Gal. 5:1 NLT). When you don’t forgive it is as if you have put the person under law, but in reality you have put yourself under law.
Jesus has taken care of everything for you

to live in total freedom

IT IS FINISHED!!! You have the victory.

You are free.

Don’t let an offense that has been done to

you rob you of your freedom

Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory

through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:56)
This is the really good, great, grand and glorious news that makes a man leap for joy. There is nothing you have to do. It has all been done. Everything for you to be free, forgiven and live in peace and joy.
We will be glad to hear from you.