

## FORGIVENESS AND DIVINE HEALING

**Matthew 9:2 - 8** They were hardly out of the boat when some men carried a paraplegic on a stretcher and set him down in front of them. Jesus, impressed by their bold belief, said to the paraplegic, "Cheer up, son. I forgive your sins." Some religion scholars whispered, "Why, that's blasphemy!" Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why this gossipy whispering? Which do you think is simpler: to say, 'I forgive your sins,' or, 'Get up and walk'? Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either or both. . . ." At this he turned to the paraplegic and said, "Get up. Take your bed and go home." And the man did it. The crowd was awestruck, amazed and pleased that God had authorized Jesus to work among them this way. **THE MESSAGE**

I would like to share a few thoughts concerning the connection between forgiveness and divine healing that Jesus is referring to in this scripture.

### I. You Have Authority To Forgive. Matthew 9: 2–8

First of all, there is no difference between the authority that has been given to us to heal the sick and forgive the sinner. Later, after Jesus arose from the grave, He gave them authority to deal with sins. **John 20: 20-23** Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Satan's power over humanity is seen in three areas. Sin, sickness, and death. But thanks be unto God our Father who always gives us the victory through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through His life, death, burial, and resurrection, He gave us authority over sin, sickness, and even death. But it is vital that we forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. We have no excuse concerning unforgiveness in our lives since we can do all things through Christ Jesus which strengthens us.

#### **Luke 10:17-20 NASV**

As a believer in Christ "the Anointed One and His anointing",  
I can forgive anyone, for anything.

Jesus said "Freely you have received, freely you must give."

You must freely give forgiveness as well as receive forgiveness!

Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

It's time to tread upon the serpent's bite of unforgiveness and the back of the scorpion's sting of bitterness. It's time to overcome the power of the enemy that is holding us back from growing in the Love of God; from being free.

## **II. Confidence In Prayer Through Forgiveness**

God has given us authority to forgive so that we might have confidence in prayer.

### **Mark 11:22-26 THE MESSAGE**

Declares we should have faith in God and when we pray, to forgive.

Why is that a requirement for prayer?

### **James 1:5-8 NASV**

Because a double minded man is unstable and will not receive from the Lord.

### **I John 3:20-22 THE MESSAGE**

But, if our heart does not condemn us, then we have complete assurance and confidence before God.

### **Hebrews 4:16 NASV**

Then we can boldly go to Him before His throne to receive from Him whatever we ask.

## **III. Jubilee Spirit “To Forgive Is To Be Set Free And Delivered”**

### **John 20: 20-23 THE MESSAGE**

We must REMIT = drive away, set forth, and release other’s sins

We must not RETAIN = hold fast, seize firmly to the bosom, to bind

**Punishment For Murder:** In the old days they would bind the victim to the murderer. The murderer would soon die because no one would have anything to do with him. Not very likely that anyone would invite you to dinner with a decaying corpse on your back.

Jesus said that to hate someone was the same as being a murderer.

But you may say, “I don’t hate anybody.”

But you may intensely dislike someone. Maybe their attitude towards you or their actions towards you causes you to be resentful.

**Always remember that resentment will ruin relationships.**

Call it what you will, but it is binding you to that person in an unhealthy way and you need to be free and delivered from it.

Otherwise, you will be in the bondage of bitterness.

My Dad was an alcoholic and left me when I was two years old. I wasn't very forgiving but after I was saved, I told him face to face that I forgave him. Soon afterward, he was saved and stopped drinking and we developed a relationship.

My forgiveness set my dad free and set me free as well.

This is what the Apostle Paul calls the ministry of reconciliation.

Holy Spirit revealed this to me in a powerful way one time while I was a missionary to the Jamaican people.

I was ministering in a church up in the Jamaican mountains one time when Holy Spirit told me to ask the people to come up for healing. But first, I was to instruct them to forgive everyone who had offended them. There were about thirty individuals who came forward. I explained again that if they were not serious about forgiving, then they were to sit down. Apparently, God was not going to be fooled around with regarding this matter. No one moved, so I started to lay hands on them and pray. Immediately, the healing fire of God came down and everyone in that line was healed. Miracles occurred. A farmer who was totally deaf could hear for the first time in many years. I've never forgotten the lesson God taught me that day. To forgive is divine health.

It's possible that the mountain you have to speak to and to cast into the sea is the mountain of forgiveness.

Realize that God has forgiven you. Realize that you have authority to forgive others. Realize that when you forgive others, you forgive yourself. Then you will be able to stand before your Father in Heaven and ask what you will and you will receive it.

### **Psalms 103: 1 – 6**

**V.3** It's time to remember His benefits of forgiveness and healing.