

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Promises of God - -***

**Romans 12:19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

In review - -

**Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**Matthew 6:9 ff.**

<sup>9</sup> Pray then in this way, Our Father who art in *the heavens*, Hallowed be thy name. . .

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

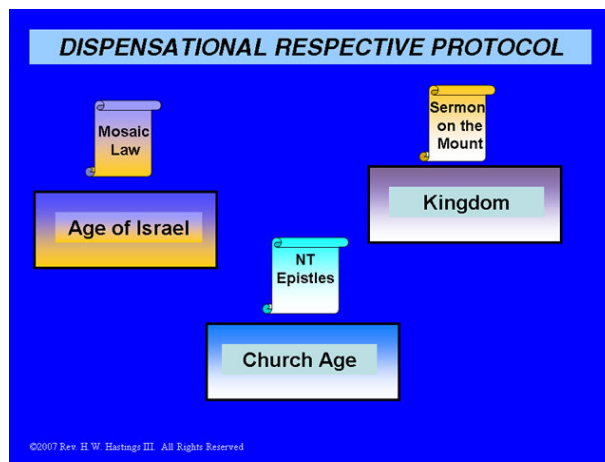
<sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup>  
"But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

**Matthew 18:35**

<sup>35</sup> "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

**vs. 21** [*Peter asked*] "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" To which the Lord responds "seventy times seven."

> The shade of application for us living today is found in the New Testament Epistles.



**Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted. . .

> γίνομαι + χρηστός + εὐσπλαγχνος

In corrected translation - ***Always be benevolent and compassionate [exuding grace and mercy] to one another. . .***

> **Χαρίζομαι – CHARIZOMAI – “To forgive”**

... *By forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

We are called to this high standard of grace, yet we fall short every time.

The best thing we can muster using all our effort, no matter how much doctrine we possess, is **pseudo forgiveness**.

POD - It is through Bible doctrine that the believer knows he is supposed to forgive; however, Bible doctrine does not provide the ability to forgive.

**THERE IS NO INHERENT ABILITY IN DOCTRINE ALONE - THE INHERENT ABILITY IS FOUND IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD WHO INDWELLS YOUR SOUL.**

POD - This life must be lived for Another, through Another, and by Another.

POD - The life must be lived for Jesus Christ because of what He has done for you.

- > We forgive because He has forgiven us.
- > That does not provide the ability either. It may motivate you, but you will still fall short.

POD - The ability to meet the high standards of grace we are commanded to in the Word of God is *through Christ (Philippians 4:13)*.

**Phil. 4:13 - I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**

POD - It is through Christ that the believer can meet the high standards of grace in God’s precious Word.

- > He strengthens you to meet the standards of grace **by Another**.

POD - This life must be lived for Jesus Christ because of what He has done for you, through Jesus Christ who strengthens you, by Another [*God the Holy Spirit*].



Unless the believer realizes that *he cannot* meet the high standards of grace, *he will not*.

*Remember that our forgiveness today is NOT contingent upon forgiving others, because of what is revealed in the New Testament Epistles.*

We are living in the Church Age - the dispensation of grace.

- ✓ We cannot earn things from God and we do not deserve things from God.
- ✓ We are forgiven.
- ✓ We have the forgiveness of God – you possess it whether you know it or not!

**Our forgiveness is based on what Christ has done for us - - that is why we are to live this life for Him.**

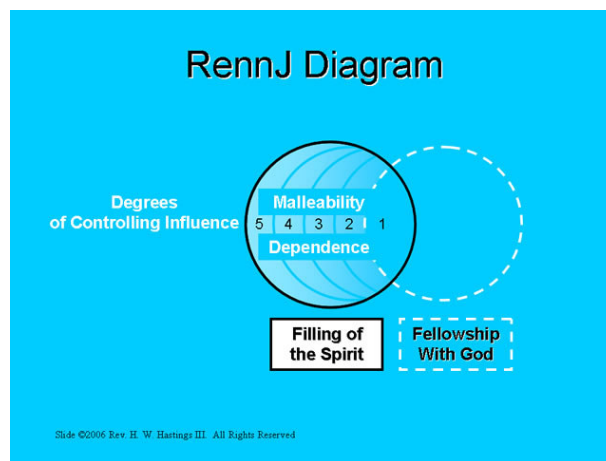
- ⇒ To “. . . forgive as God in Christ also has forgiven you” requires being enabled by the Spirit.
- ⇒ He manifests the forgiveness of Christ in us.
- ⇒ He manifests the love of Christ.

**YOU CANNOT DO IT ON YOUR OWN WITH DOCTRINE**

That is Psychological and not Pneumatological.

**Who produces the mind of Christ within the believer?**

- *When* is the attitude or thinking of Christ - **His mind** - produced within the Christian?



- The believer who walks in dependence upon self to produce that mind **will never have it**, regardless of how much doctrine he knows or how hard he tries.

**These things can only be understood by relying on the Holy Spirit to understand them.**

- God the Holy Spirit is your Mentor and He must reveal these things to you.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” <sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; . . .”

- Truth is revealed to babes – babes who depend with childlike faith.
- Believers are called to *walk by faith, not by sight.*

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

For we walk by faith, not by sight - -

- **διὰ + πίστις – DIA plus PISTIS** – “By means of faith, trust, or dependence”
- A faith, trust, or dependence in God the Holy Spirit to do what we inherently cannot do

- The Word of God, Bible doctrine, reveals what the Spirit was sent to do and we must trust in Him to do those very things.

### Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit [**at salvation** – starting point of the unique spiritual life], are you now being perfected by the flesh [*self effort*]?

### Colossians 3:12-13

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a **heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; **just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**

**And just what was the example of the Lord?**

### Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. <sup>34</sup> But Jesus was saying, **“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”** And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

### An example of forgiveness –

**Acts 7:60** Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

**vs. 55** But **being** full of the Holy Spirit. . .

- ὑπάρχω – HUPARCHO - “to be at one’s disposal”
- Steven was MALLEABLE and DEPENDENT; living in the RennJ Diagram.

**Acts 6:5** “. . . Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. . .”

Compare **Colossians 3:13** “. . . **just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you**” with **Ephesians 4:32** “**Always be benevolent and compassionate** [exuding grace and mercy to one another], *by* forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

- This forgiveness is totally unattainable by self-effort.
- The flesh can never produce such **forgiveness**.
- The world does not understand “. . . **as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**”
- Human efforts to forgive always fall short of God’s standards.

As pastors – communicators of God’s precious Word – have we fallen into a ruse of our adversary, the devil.

### Eph. 4:32

**Col 3:12-16** put on a **heart of compassion**. . . bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, . . . just as the Lord forgave you,

**Gal 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**What we do is lower the standard of grace to something obtainable on our own.**

- - An Exegetical Reduction - -

*What did the Lord do in the Sermon on the Mount? He RAISED THE BAR; the Standard of Righteousness for the kingdom subject!*

*We, Church Age Believers, also have high standards to attain to and yet we often reduce that STANDARD OF GRACE.*

The reason we do this stems from the sincere desire to meet the standards in the Word. But when the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit remains nothing more than an academic doctrine, something that is not realized in our life, we do not include Him in meeting those standards and therefore reduce them to something humanly attainable. The teaching of the Exegetical Reductionistic pastor produces a believer thinking and believing he can attain the standards of grace **one day after he has taken in enough Bible doctrine**. That is a system of intellectual arrogance. The Exegetical Reductionist rarely speaks about the believer's need to realize his **inability**. He does not emphasize the required **malleability to and dependence upon** Another to live his life for the glory of God. In this system, the filling of the Spirit is reduced to mere fellowship with God or some growth paradigm where the believer is being filled with Bible Doctrine *by the Spirit*. With the Filling of the Spirit reduced to fellowship, any experiential aspect of the Holy Spirit fulfilling all that He came into the believer's life to do is eradicated and attacked.

- **Attacked** by this rationalistic intellectualism
- Rationalism is opposed to faith.
- Pretty soon a Christian is produced who trusts independently upon the truth - who believes **one day** he'll be able to attain the high standards of grace in the Word of God after he has amassed enough Bible Doctrine in his soul.
- When the amount of **Bible Doctrine** is reduced via the cancellation of class - what happens in this believer's life?
- When a believer is accustomed to taking in **Bible Doctrine** several hours each week and that is reduced to half - a **fear factor** sets in. . .

⇒ ***"Oh no! My spiritual life is going down the tubes."***

⇒ ***"My sin nature is going to overrun my soul."***

⇒ ***"I need more doctrine and I better do something about it fast."***

- Where is that soul's **trust** and **dependence** for victory and meeting the high standards of grace?

### **In taking in more doctrine?**

This results in thinking that - "believers already have the Spirit, they need more doctrine."

You may have the SPIRIT, but have you learned to **depend** on the SPIRIT?

Time allows God to teach the believer how to **depend** upon the Spirit and the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit with the doctrine the believer has learned.

- **Trusting** in the word of God is so important for the believer.
- Having Bible doctrine circulating in his stream of consciousness is **vital**.
- The believer trusting ALONE in Bible Doctrine does make some headway; however, he is **independently** trusting in the truth to meet the standards of grace and not the *Spirit and truth*.

**Galatians 3:3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh [self-effort]?

- This is a satanic ruse that has infiltrated many who are positive to Bible doctrine.

- The result is an independent Christian exclaiming the same thing Satan did when he fell - “*I will.*”
- The believer must recognize his need to be enabled by the Spirit, *with* Bible doctrine, to attain the high standards of grace.
- The believer who has fallen into this ruse of Satan will react to the concepts of malleability, dependence, yielding, or humility.

**Jude 24-25** Now to Him who is able to keep you from **stumbling**, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

➤ “**Stumbling**” - ἄπταιστος – **APTAISTOS** – Used in 4BC by Xenophon to describe a horse “*stumbling*” in a race.

- What happens when you stumble or fall down?

Who is the One declared to “*keep you from stumbling*”?

- Whether it is crossing a finish line or meeting a standard. . .

By living our lives for Another [*Jesus Christ, because of what He has done for you*], through Another [*Jesus Christ who strengthens you*] by Another [*God the Holy Spirit*].

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*