

Dismantling the Stronghold of Unforgiveness

Introduction: Unforgiveness is one of the most subtle of sins; therefore, it is one of the most dangerous. It requires us to be very vigilant to seek it out and remove it from our Heart, Soul and Mind. The evil one uses unforgiveness bred by offense to undermine our prayers and derail our growth by opening doors to a myriad of other sins (i.e., the faith and authority of Mark 11:22-24 is undermined by the unforgiveness of v25-26). **The Stronghold of Unforgiveness: Unmet expectations—Disappointment—Rejection—Offense—Unforgiveness**

- A. Sins of Offense & Unforgiveness:** Many times, the sins listed below grow from offense and unforgiveness. The seed of that offense can be so small we hardly even realize that it came from offense. Look at the ones you find coming up often and follow them back to the root. (Eph. 4:31-32; James 3:15—4:1-3; 1 Pet. 3:8-11). Remember, even if you meditate on the offense in your heart, you are guilty of the sin.

Anger	Rage	Confusion
Bitterness	Hate	Malice
Gossip	Wrath	Violence
Strife	Backbiting	Murder
Evil Speaking	Clamor	

- B. Identify Unforgiveness:** Look for every place the evil one has convinced you to hold offense, unforgiveness or bitterness. Don't forget to identify your sinful thoughts, feelings, motives and behavior in each interaction. Leave no stone unturned. Do this with the Holy Spirit so you don't meditate on what "they did."

Parents / Step-Parents	Classmates	Persecutors
Children / Grandchildren	Teachers / Coaches	Offense by proxy – individual
Siblings	Friends	Offense by proxy – group
Spouse / Ex-spouse(s)	Boyfriends / Girlfriends	Offense by Proxy – institution
Business Associates	Roommates	Customer Service Reps
Bosses / Supervisors	Self	God
Unfair Treatment / Discrimination	Victimizers (Rape, Incest, Abuse, Violence, etc.)	Pastors / Religious Leaders / Church Members

C. Repent, Forgive, Renounce, Break, and Cleanse out the demons

- Use Expanded Prayer for Breaking Curses and Steps for Personal Cleansing.
- Forgive yourself for taking offense and behaving wrongly. Forgive the person and pray blessings over him/her. Put the offense under the Blood of Jesus and meditate on love as you forgive.

D. Replace the Iniquity in Heart, Soul, and Mind with God's Word

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| 1. Pride, self-righteousness & self-centeredness | James 3:15-4:3 |
| - Put on humility. | Rom. 12:3 |
| 2. Judgmental – critical of actions, words and motivations | Matt 7:1-6 |
| - Esteem others as more important. | Phil. 2:3-4 |
| 3. Self Protection | 1 Pet. 3:8-10 |
| - God is your Protector. | 1 Pet. 2:21-23 |

E. Actions of Forgiveness

- Love your enemies, bless them, do good to them, pray for them. Matt 5:44