

Question 9: "Are You a Quicker Forgiver?"

3 John 2

For the past couple of months, we have been diagnosing our spiritual health. Some illness is easier to diagnose than others: stomach flu, back ache, migraine, broken bone. Then there is our spiritual health. Some illnesses are easier than others to diagnose, so we have been examining, asking questions to help us pinpoint some problem areas we can have.

Thirst for God

Is your life ever increasingly governed by God's Word?

Do you love others more than ever?

Are you sensitive to God's presence?

Do I have a growing concern for others spiritual and physical needs?

Do I love the church, can't wait to come participate, serve, fellowship?

Am I finding Bible study, devotion, prayer increasingly important?

Do I grieve over sin, am I hardened to sin?

Have I hidden iniquity in my heart?

Tonight's Test

Is it hard to self-diagnose? You and I know if we are quick to forgive. We know if we practice forgiveness.

James Coulter said, "The unforgiving spirit is the number one killer of the spiritual life."

Would you agree? What has done more damage in your life than a bitter, unforgiving spirit?

C.S. Lewis, "Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea, until he has something to forgive."

Read story Page 111, 112.

Mark 11:25,26, Matthew 6:12

We have been forgiven; therefore, we can forgive.

God is very serious about the forgiveness issue, am I? Who comes to mind when you hear this word forgiveness? Is it someone you should be forgiving?

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "I say to the glory of God and in utter humility, that whenever I see myself before God and realize even something of what my blessed Lord has done for me, I am ready to forgive anybody, anything."

Matthew 18:15-17, Be quick to forgive and resolve issues. Have a heart of forgiveness.

Something to consider is the person I need to forgive may have been forgiven, and haven't offended me again, but I won't let go. Every time I hear their name I'm offended again and without a heart of forgiveness, I will stay offended.

Remember forgiveness is commanded, it isn't a feeling. If we know to do good (forgive) and do it not (unforgiveness) to us it is sin. Regard iniquity, unforgiveness, we won't be forgiven.

Forgive and forget is a fantasy, but we can forgive until it's no longer an issue. God alone can blot out offenses. 1 John 1:9, Isaiah 43:25

While your forgiving others, forgive yourself. The sooner the better. Resolve it and ask God to help, pray about it.