

Dear friend in CHRIST, I pray that during these dark days in the world, that you are REJOICING in the LORD, (Phil. 4:4) & standing against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:10-17). Thanks be unto GOD for HIS wonderful gift, JESUS CHRIST, the only begotten SON of GOD, who is the object of our FAITH. The ONLY FAITH that SAVES is FAITH in HIM (Acts 4:12). As the enemy satan increases his assaults, we must spend more time in PRAYER, PRAISE, GOD'S WORD & press on for GOD'S GLORY.

As I prepared this month's newsletter, I'm still overly blessed how I was treated in the Cayman Islands last month. They showed such love & dedication to the LORD, humbly serving HIM. Brother Raphael called & said each church was blessed by the anointed WORD the HOLY SPIRIT brought forth thru me (Luke 12:12). He said that they are definitely having me back, P.T.L.

July had 20 services in 28 days as I had to leave for WA. & OR. on the 29th for a 12 day ministry trip, 4 prisons, 2 jails, 2 churches & a homeless shelter. It will be my 5th time there with the Day Springs Ministry. I'll also be a guest speaker at 2 TV programs, T.B.N. & Daysprings. It is only thru the gracious & loving Hagen's, Bob & Helen that I can keep coming back. I stay at their home & it sure is a blessing. July was a light month of harvesting souls as there were a little over 250. It is a real battle for souls but the HOLY SPIRIT continues to haul them in (John 6:44). I had an extra treat this month by ministering at Grace Bible Church in Southgate for Pastor Don Bruser. I led a Bible Study at 9:30 A.M. & preached at the 11 A.M. service.

The mission's services all went well. Some come to hear the Word but don't stay to eat. They always say, "Brother Mel, you already fed me the Word." I have a captive audience as they have to listen before they eat & I take the whole hour. (Smile) There were services & Bible studies on Spiritual Warfare at the Fred Jordan Mission, men & women's services at the Union Rescue Mission, the Long Beach Rescue Mission, & the Los Angeles Mission, along with my home Bible Studies. The L.A. Co. Jail took 12 hours of 2 services (1 Hr. 15 min. each) plus counseling inmates who requested to be seen. There were dozens of calls for prayer from those who are flooded with troubles. I also went to a hospital to pray for & lead to the LORD a brother of an ex-inmate who has Aids & cancer. The ex-inmate is doing well & is praying the Arsenal Prayer DAILY. www.melnovak.com)

I'm finding that those who are in prison, on Skid Row, in churches, wherever I go, there are multitudes who "never forgave themselves." I hear, "Yes! I know that GOD has forgiven me, but I don't have peace in my heart." Something is NOT right. I'm convinced we sometimes lack peace because even though CHRIST has forgiven us, we have FAILED to forgive ourselves. My friend, there will be NO peace in your heart, no real contentment, until you are able to forgive yourself even for the most serious wrongs you have committed. I see it in maximum security prisons, Skid Row, Women's Prisons (some 80%), & everywhere I go. I've led more than two thousand in a prayer to forgive themselves. Chains are broken (Isa. 9:4) & now they are able to pray for themselves (James 4:2).

Consider Peter, & how he denied JESUS three times. How many times do you think he replayed that awful scene in his mind? The mind is the devil's playground! (I Peter 4:1, Phil. 2:5). That's where the spirit of torment comes, yet Peter went on to follow GOD'S plan for his life, which would NOT have been possible if he had been consumed by guilt. You see, if you haven't forgiven yourself, you carry shame & guilt, which is NAILED TO THE CROSS. Consider Paul, in his zeal to persecute the Christian Church, he even collaborated to murder Stephen. Yet, he was forgiven, for he describes his restoration beautifully in Scripture.

Failing to forgive yourself has very serious consequences. You are robbed of peace because you continue to punish yourself. You live under a cloud of uncertainty about GOD'S LOVE. You develop a sense of unworthiness that affects your prayer life. You may even be driven by guilt to excessive behaviors that are unhealthy for you & damaging to

your loved ones. Worst of all, failing to forgive yourself is really the same thing as rejecting GOD'S forgiveness. **DON'T MISS THIS:** If our sovereign, almighty, omniscient GOD has declared you **NOT** guilty, who are you to hold onto your guilt & regret? So, if you truly want to forgive yourself, you must begin here. You must **ACCEPT GOD'S forgiveness**. You must also **REPENT** of the sin of keeping yourself in bondage, of damaging your relationship with GOD & limiting HIS ability to use you. Lastly, you must reaffirm your **FAITH** in the testimony of Scripture. In Isa. 43:25; Jer. 31:34B; Isa. 44:22; Ps. 103:12, **GOD DOES NOT REMEMBER OUR SINS WHEN WE ASK FOR FORGIVENESS & REPENT**. Please look these Scriptures up & underline them. Our sins are put in the "Sea of Forgetfulness" (Micah 7:19).

What a magnificent assurance that GOD is our **FORGIVING FATHER**. We must realize that because **CHRIST** has paid the penalty for our sins, we are **TRULY FORGIVEN**. Because **HE** rose again from the grave, we can look forward to a new life **FREE** from guilt & **FULL** of the **PEACE** that passes **ALL** understanding (Phil. 4:7). I experienced that peace in Phil. 4:7 the last 2 times that I was dying. I didn't want to die, but I had peace, because of the **PRINCE of PEACE**. Embrace **HIS LOVE & FORGIVENESS TODAY**.

Yours warmly, in **HIS LOVE & GRACE**. To you who sent **LOVE** offerings, I thank you & praise **HIM**.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak