

POWER OVER THE GRUDGE

THE GRUDGE

FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

POWER OF SIN ENSLAVES US

2 CORINTHIANS 11:20 NLT *You put up with it when someone enslaves you, takes everything you have, takes advantage of you, takes control of everything, and slaps you in the face.*

ROMANS 3:9-12 NLT *Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. ⁽¹⁰⁾ As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. ⁽¹¹⁾ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. ⁽¹²⁾ All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”*

FAITH IS THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

LUKE 17:3-5 NLT *So watch yourselves! “If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. ⁽⁴⁾ Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.” ⁽⁵⁾ The apostles said to the Lord, “Show us how to increase our faith.”*

1 PETER 2:19-25 NLT *For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. ⁽²⁰⁾ Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. ⁽²¹⁾ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ⁽²²⁾ He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ⁽²³⁾ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ⁽²⁴⁾ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ⁽²⁵⁾ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.*

FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN

ROMANS 6:5-7 NLT *Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁽⁶⁾ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁽⁷⁾ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.*

ROMANS 8:1-2 NLT *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ⁽²⁾ And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.*

PSALMS 103:10-12 NLT *He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ⁽¹¹⁾ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. ⁽¹²⁾ He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.*

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. Share how you have been under the power of a grudge?
2. What is your typical reaction to being wronged?
3. How have you experienced being released from the power of sin?

MY STEP: #1—Thank God for forgiving me.

#2—What offenses do I need to forgive?