

IS THE GRUDGE GONE? HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE FORGIVEN SOMEONE?

THE GRUDGE

FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

HOW CAN I ACKNOWLEDGE THE OFFENSE?

LUKE 15:11-13 NLT *To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. ⁽¹²⁾ The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. ⁽¹³⁾ A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.”*

ROMANS 8:27 NLT *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

HOW THE FATHER FORGAVE

LUKE 15:20-24 NLT *“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. ⁽²¹⁾ His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ ⁽²²⁾ “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ⁽²³⁾ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ⁽²⁴⁾ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.”*

ROMANS 12:14 NLT *Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them.*

HOW THE BROTHER HELD THE GRUDGE

LUKE 15:28-30 NLT *“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, ⁽²⁹⁾ but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. ⁽³⁰⁾ Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’”*

#1—Grudge holders always keeps score.

#2—Grudge holders always boast of their own record.

#3—Grudge holders always complain.

#4—Grudge holders always alienate, divide, & separate.

#5—Grudge holders always accuse, expose & continue to bring up the offense.

#6—Grudge holders are always angry and jealous when the person gets blessed.

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. What “grudge holders” do you still see in your life?
2. How could the father forgive such a massive offense?
3. How serious are you about walking in forgiveness?

MY STEP: #4: ASK GOD TO BLESS THEM!

THE GRUDGE

FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

6 STEPS OF THE FORGIVENESS PROCESS

Step 1: Thank God for Forgiving me

Ask: "Do I have any unconfessed sin in my life?"

Step 2: What offenses do I need to Forgive

Ask: "Who do I need to forgive and for what?"

Step 3: Repent of my Unforgiveness

Ask: "God please forgive my unforgiveness?"

Step 4: I choose to Forgive from my Heart

Say: "God, I choose to forgive Name from my heart for offense."

Ask: "Lord, is there anything else I need to forgive Name for?"

Say: "I declare Name is no longer in my debt. I transfer their debt to God."

Step 5: Ask God to bless them

Ask: "Lord, please bless Name, and help me find a way to bless them."

Step 6: Commit to Not Remember

When the memory comes:

Say: "I remember forgiving that!"

Say: "Praise God for the freedom forgiveness brought me."

Say: "Bless the person I forgave again!"

Pray: "Please God, pave the way for reconciliation."