Bitterness

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

Bitterness is a serious problem, because when a person becomes bitter, it cuts that one off from the freedom of the Spirit and from being able to receive the deep things of My Word. It causes their heart to become hard, and the ground that I would want to plant My seeds in becomes dry, hard, and impenetrable. The longer a person is allowed to continue on in their bitterness, the more chance there is of that person becoming hardened and cold and alienated from the life of God.

Many of those who are bitter can't even see the bitterness in their life. They can't see the danger of it or the damage that it's doing to their relationship with Me and others. It's a serious problem that needs to be exposed. It's one of the strongest and most widespread roadblocks to unity, because it's so diverse; people can be affected or afflicted with bitterness through so many avenues and because of so many different circumstances or reasons.

Bitterness is akin to hatred, division and jealousy, and if left to run its course, it can bring about the destruction of My children, their ministries, and their work for Me. Bitterness is a powerful tool of the Enemy, for it is often subtle. Those who suffer the sin of bitterness feel justified, and therefore often do not go on the attack to rid themselves of it. They expect the other person to make the first move. They feel they have been wronged and therefore they deserve an apology; they deserve for the other person to humble themselves first and even to come groveling to seek forgiveness. As long as a bitter person holds on to these ideas and desires, unity is impossible.

The bitterness of the Enemy must be exposed, and the dangers of this sin must again be clearly highlighted, so that when My children are under the fire of the conviction of My Spirit, they will move to rid themselves of this tool of the Enemy, this negative emotion, this sin that is weakening the children of David so. [1]

Bitterness is like a deadly root, and like a root, it is much unseen from the surface. The only parts which are seen are the leaves and branches which grow from it, and the fruit it bears. While it is unseen, it flourishes in the soil of your heart and gains strength, sucking out the very life and nourishment of the earth, and cumbering the ground so that none other of My tender plants may grow in that area. The wise man sees this and recognizes the root of bitterness, and is not ashamed to bring out the shovel and dig it up and rid himself of it. He knows that there's no shame in tending the garden of his heart and getting rid of the weeds; the only shame is in letting them grow and letting the crop spoil.

Because bitterness is hard to detect, and yet I wish for all My children and farmers to root it out of their hearts, I will give you a description to help you in looking for it in your own heart. Bitterness begins small, as a tiny seed. The seeds come in many different forms: when you feel wronged by another; when you make a mistake or think you've made a mistake, and cannot forgive yourself for it; when you compare with others and feel they have it so much better than you; when you look at the life you're living and feel that if I really loved you, I would have given you something else, or would have taken better care of you. These are all seeds of bitterness.

When you have a root of bitterness growing in your heart, that area of the ground becomes unusable for other plants. The ground becomes contaminated, and that part of your heart often becomes sore or easily irritated. This is one symptom of bitterness--being easily irritated in a certain area, or finding you easily resent certain types of situations. If certain circumstances repeatedly cause you battles, and you've taken the necessary steps to purge the garden of your heart of weeds, to water the flowers, and tend that area of the garden, and yet you still seem to be having problems, that's one symptom that you have a root of bitterness growing there, and you must dig it up and get rid of it.

Other symptoms of bitterness include: when you have sour or negative feelings toward a certain person, circumstance, or even toward yourself; when you're unable to accept others' forgiveness or My forgiveness; when you're unable to accept others' love and help; when you're unable to change as My Spirit blows with the winds of change, and you wish to hang on to the old and do not wish to step out and reach forward; when certain negative events continually play through your mind or you're reminded of them often. These are often symptoms of bitterness.

To truly forgive is to forgive and forget. Even though the memory of something is not gone from your mind immediately, when you do remember it, it's covered with the cloak of forgiveness and doesn't bring up a sour or bitter taste in your mouth. When it does, this is a symptom of bitterness, and you must ask Me to help to root it out, and help you to truly forgive and forget in love.

Other symptoms also include: not wanting to reach out to give love; not wanting to give or share freely for fear that you'll be wronged or hurt; not wanting to open your heart to others; dwelling in the past, or feeling that past times were better.

Murmuring is the voice of bitterness. Discontentment is a symptom of bitterness. Resentment is one of the arms of bitterness, which reaches out to hurt and strangle others.

The symptoms of bitterness are hard to detect. The best way to find out if you have a root of bitterness in your life is to ask Me. Ask Me to search the ground of your heart, and see if I show you or point out to you an area where you should look. Then, if you find something, ask Me what to do about it, how to get rid of it, how to uproot the bitterness in this area of your life, and what caused it.

It's a long and tedious process if you go about looking for bitterness yourself. For your heart is like a garden with many flowers and plants--some for nourishment, some for decoration, some for medicinal purposes, others for spice. All

of these plants are like the feelings, the personality traits, the thoughts, the actions, the inner workings of your heart. Some are good, some are bad. Some must be pulled out as weeds and gotten rid of; others must be gently tended, nurtured, and cared for, in order to bring about the full beauty or the full fruit.

There are many other symptoms of bitterness, for it's varied, and it's different in each person's life. These symptoms don't always come from bitterness--sometimes they stem from other problems. So the best way to tell if you have a root of bitterness is to ask the Master Gardener. If you're having a problem in some part of your garden, if the good and loving plants are dying, or your ground is sore and troublesome, ask Him for the answer, for He will give it and will help to correct the problem, whatever it may be. (2)

A root of bitterness is not easily taken care of. You can't kill it or get rid of it by simply covering it over with more dirt, or planting new flowers there, or even placing a slab of marble or concrete over it, or a new bench or garden ornament. You must remove the dirt and dig it up completely, asking the Master Gardener for His help to get out all the traces of the root, to clean and purify the soil of your heart, and then to help you fill in the gap with fresh earth, new plants, flowers and trees to take its place.

Only the Master Gardener is able to perform the operation successfully, and it's often one in which He calls others to help. Getting rid of a root of bitterness in your life often requires asking for prayer from others, confessing and humbling yourself, and thereby letting the Master Gardener and His workers have full access to the area of your garden which needs help.

Again, there's nothing to be ashamed of if you find you have a root of bitterness in your life, but it is something to be taken care of. The only thing to be ashamed of is if you find or suspect you have a root of bitterness and you don't go on the attack to root it out and get rid of it. For it grows quickly and can quickly spoil the garden. The larger it grows, the harder it is to dig it out, and the more upheaval it causes to the rest of the garden.

Though it's an evil and powerful weed with a strong root, yet My love is much stronger! My love is the antidote for bitterness. My love and My forgiveness are able to cover a multitude of sins. My love is stronger, greater, and more powerful than bitterness, and the moment that you cry out to Me for deliverance, I'm there, ready to help you to root out the bitterness from the garden of your heart, and fill the earth again with My love, My peace, My joy, My contentment, the gifts of My Spirit, and the beautiful flowers and fruit trees which could not grow there before.

I'm ready and willing! All of My children must only ask, and I will help, save and deliver them! (3)

Watch the garden of your heart; never let the evil start. You must watch diligently and faithfully the garden of your heart and mind, for anything that is not yielded to Me becomes a potential opening for the influences and thoughts and evil seeds of the Devil. When you are bitter, I cannot offer you full protection. When you are bitter, you cannot fully raise a standard against the Enemy and his attacks. When you are bitter, you become hardened to My voice and to the checks of My Spirit, because bitterness is the result of pride and unyieldedness and lack of forgiveness.

The longer you entertain bitterness, the more influence it has over your heart and mind and spirit. Those who are bitter are those who have not heard and received and acted upon My still, small voice when I said unto them, "Forgive! Forgive and forget." Those who are bitter often do not want to forgive and forget, because they feel that they are right, and they have been wronged, and therefore they deserve to make a case for their bitterness and to see those who have hurt them suffer. They desire to see those who have hurt them punished.

Bitterness equals pride. Bitterness equals unyieldedness. Bitterness equals lack of forgiveness. Bitterness is a sin. It is wrong, and it can separate you from Me and My blessing and My protection. Those who entertain bitterness cut themselves off from the flow of My Spirit.

Bitterness is like a slow poison that weakens and kills slowly but surely, day by day. Those who are bitter are not just bitter against those who have wronged them, but they are also bitter against Me, because I allowed it to happen. They feel that I failed, that I was unjust, that I turned My back on them when I allowed something so horrible, so unfair to befall them when they were so undeserving of such treatment. Bitterness not only builds a wall between the person who is bitter and the person they feel has wronged them, but it also builds a wall between the bitter person and Me. Bitterness is the result of lack of faith, lack of trust, thinking you know better, self-righteously wanting to judge and rule and cause the other person to suffer as you have suffered.

These attitudes of heart and mind do not bring Me closer, and do not cause My Spirit to reign freely in your life. They do not cause you to draw nigh unto Me, that I might draw nigh unto you, but instead it has the opposite effect. It causes you to be distant, unbelieving, and it quenches the flow of your love towards Me. It causes you to be closed and hard and resistant toward the flow of My Love toward you.

If bitterness is allowed to follow its course, it will only make you weaker and weaker and weaker. With time, your heart and mind will be more receptive to the doubts of the Enemy, for bitterness is like a plow that plows up the soil of your heart and prepares it for the seeds of the Enemy's evil doubts. Just as My penis plows up the earth of your heart to prepare you for My seeds, that they might take root deep in your heart and life, so does bitterness plow up the earth of your heart to prepare you to receive the seeds of the Evil One--his doubts and lies and fears. So what would you rather have?--The plow of My penis preparing you for My seeds?--Or the Devil's plow of bitterness preparing you for his seeds?

Forgive now, that you might find freedom from the Devil's devices! Bitterness is born in pride. For when you are bitter, you feel that you know better than God, that if you had been God, you never would have allowed it. Things would be different, things would be better.

Bitterness is akin to doubt, because those who doubt also feel that they know better--they know better than their shepherds, they know better than their king and queen, they know better than God, and if they could do things differently, they would do them better. So beware of bitterness! [4]

Let Me ask you this: How important is it to treat an infection on your body? A disagreement is like an injury in your unity, an abrasion, or an open wound. People can create these wounds by misunderstandings caused by their sharp or insensitive personalities, but generally-and this is by far the greater percentage-these things are caused by the Enemy.

He sneaks into your midst, and when he sees an opening to blame the problem on someone else, he quickly cuts you, then points out how it was the other person's fault. "They're in the wrong; they did this to you." In fact, it was Satan's own emissaries that did it to you. Satan often hides in the shadows and is quick to accuse others of the deeds for which he himself is responsible.

For example, say you've had a clash with someone in your Home. The Enemy sees that as an opportunity to get your eyes on the other person and blame the problem on them. He'll say something like, "The reason you're having this problem is because so-and-so is unloving and hurtful." Then the problem will start to grow as you begin to feel more and more in the right and see the other person more and more in the wrong. He gets you to believe that the other person is responsible for the problem, for the disunity, when he's the one who's created those bad feelings.

It's easy to take the Enemy's viewpoint and say, "Yes, look what so-and-so did to me! How could they be so mean and unloving as to cut me like that?" And the outlook of the Enemy begins to set in and infect the wound with bitterness and disunity. It might have started out as a personal problem with someone in the Home that you could have easily worked out through love and prayer and humility and good communication, but instead the Enemy blows it out of proportion and makes you blame the disunity or problem on the other person, instead of on the real culprit-the Enemy, the one who is trying to use the problem to decapitate your unity.

The Enemy then covers the wound with his hand so that every time you look down at it you don't see the infection growing, spreading, and getting worse. He covers it and tells you, "Oh, it's not that bad; it's fine. You're right to feel the way you do. There's no reason to take care of this sore; it's so-and-so's fault anyway. They're the ones who should be doing something about it; you have no responsibility for it." It seems silly when I lay it out plainly like this for you, doesn't it? But that's what often happens in times of disunity or attacks on your unity.

The problem is that while you're ignoring your part in the situation and your responsibility to take care of the problem, the Enemy is able to pump more infectious germs into the sore. Then it becomes a chink in your armor through which he can get in and begin to poison your spiritual "bloodstream," and problems begin to crop up in other areas of your life too. Other "sores" you have from other abrasions begin to become infected as well, as you slap My hand away when I try to treat them.

If you allow the "sore" of disunity and bitterness to grow, it ends up spreading to other areas of your life. Maybe you start with just being in disunity with one person, but if that grows, then pretty soon the Enemy starts infecting other areas of your life. Maybe you had difficulties with someone else in the past, so you start to remember that and get bitter against that person as well, and it grows and grows until you end up bitter and in disunity with nearly everyone.

It comes down to your choice to either do something about the problem or gloss it over and pretend it's not there. If you don't do something about it, the infection grows and gets worse till it can make you very, very sick in spirit. If you do something about it immediately, you'll be able to see who the attacker really is, and take action against the Devil, who was the one who sliced away at you and caused the hurt. [5]

You may call this demon Bitterness, for he carries the most sour, bitter spirit you have ever imagined. He carries this by choice, not by destiny. He works together with Pan and the demon of Rejection to turn the sweet things of life--or things which I intend to bring out the sweetness--into bitter, sour, sad memories.

He cannot make anyone become bitter. He can only come in when pride and resentment are allowed to grow in a person's life, to the point that there is an opening for him, a virtual invitation for his infestation. There he works together with Pan and the demon of Rejection to actually influence or change a person's memories and perspective on life, so that they feel justified in carrying around the weight and poison of bitterness. It's as if he convinces them that they need that poison of the spirit that he feeds them in order to be happy, or that somehow by carrying it around, it will rectify the situation and make things better or at least bring revenge on those whom they feel have done them wrong. Neither is true.

A person's spirit will only become more and more crushed, sick, and sour, if they continue to let bitterness reside in their heart. In saying this, I don't mean the actual demon of Bitterness can inhabit the heart of one who knows Me, for I am in their heart. But he continues to influence their mind and thoughts whenever they give him entrance through pride, and he leaves traces of his poison behind that continue to grow in his absence. It's very sad to see a spirit crushed, sickened, and weakened to the point that they don't even long to recover. Those who really know what bitterness does to you avoid it like a plague--because it is.

Of course, I have the antidote and can help anyone to cleanse their spirit and be made anew. But they must be willing to forsake their pride, forsake their sense of being wronged, and let Me cleanse even their memories of what they think happened. For whenever someone is influenced by the demon of Bitterness, their memories are always distorted.

You can pray against Bitterness, because like any spiritual entity fighting you, he is bound and hindered by your prayers and calling on the keys. You can pray on behalf of your loved ones who are not in the Family. But as long as they yield to pride, resentment will soon follow, and the door is left open for bitterness. So you must also pray for them to

humble their spirits before Me, or that they'll receive My humbling and My perspective on things, so that they're not constantly easy prey. [6]

When you're bitter, I can't offer you full protection. When you're bitter, you can't fully raise a standard against the Enemy and his attacks. When you're bitter, you become hardened to My voice and to the checks of My Spirit, because bitterness is the result of pride and unyieldedness and lack of forgiveness. The longer you entertain bitterness, the more influence it has over your heart and mind and spirit. Those who are bitter are those who have not heard and received and acted upon My still, small voice when I said to them, "Forgive. Forgive and forget."

Often those who are bitter do not want to forgive and forget, because they feel that they're right, that they've been wronged, and they deserve to make a case for their bitterness. They feel they deserve to see those who have hurt them suffer. They desire to see those who have hurt them punished.

Bitterness equals pride. Bitterness equals unyieldedness. Bitterness equals lack of forgiveness. Bitterness is a sin. It's wrong, and it can separate you from Me, My blessings, and My protection. Those who entertain bitterness cut themselves off from the flow of My Spirit. Bitterness is like a slow poison that weakens and kills slowly but surely, day by day.

Those who are bitter are not just bitter against those who have wronged them, but they're also bitter against Me, because I allowed it. They feel that I failed, that I was unjust, that I turned My back on them when I allowed something so horrible and so unfair to befall them, when they felt they were so undeserving of such treatment. Bitterness not only builds a wall between the person who's bitter and the person they feel has wronged them, but it also builds a wall between the bitter person and Me.

Bitterness is the result of lack of faith, lack of trust, thinking you know better, and self-righteously wanting to judge and rule and cause the other person to suffer as you have suffered. But these attitudes of heart and mind don't bring Me closer, and don't cause My Spirit to reign freely in your life. They don't cause you to draw nigh to Me, that I might draw nigh to you, but instead they have the opposite effect. Bitterness causes you to be distant, unbelieving, and it quenches the flow of your love toward Me. It causes you to be closed and hard and resistant to the flow of My love toward you.

If bitterness is allowed to follow its course, it will only make you weaker and weaker and weaker, and with time, your heart and mind will be more receptive to the doubts of the Enemy. Bitterness is like a plow that plows up the soil of your heart and prepares it for the seeds of the Enemy's evil doubts. So forgive now, that you might find freedom from the Devil's devices.

Bitterness is born in pride; for when you're bitter, you feel that you know better than God. You feel that if you had been God, you never would have allowed it, and things would be different; things would be better. Bitterness is akin to doubt, because those who doubt also feel that they know better--that they know better than their shepherds, they know better than their king and queen, they know better than God, and if they could do things differently, they would do them better. So beware of bitterness! [7]

All Things Work Together For Good

My precious children, how I love you! I have designed the mystery of life for you, My loves, and I have put within the majesty of choice this safeguard of protection for all My children. It's called the promise of Romans 8:28. It's My promise to you that no matter what happens in your life, no matter what the choices of those around you, I can and will perfect My plan in your life and turn all things for your good, as much as you'll let Me. As you love Me and trust Me in yieldedness, so am I able to take even bad situations and turn them to your good.

It's not that I "will" these bad situations--for I wish all men to learn to love and to live in love. But because man is not perfect, and because you have the majesty of choice and you often make selfish choices, I gave you, My children who love Me, that promise as your safeguard, to know that no matter what the choices of those around you, I am able to turn them into good for you.

As I said to My disciples while I was on Earth, "It must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh" (Mat.18:7). In this world there will be injustice, there will be selfishness, and there will be pain and difficulty inflicted on innocent people. But My promise to all My children is that I have the power to overrule the evil, and turn for good any circumstance that you find yourself in.

This is one of the mysteries of My Spirit, how I have a plan so perfect that it cannot fail, and yet I give to you the majesty of choice and the power to change things according to your choices. But no matter what the choices of those around you, I am able to give you what's best for you. Do you believe that? Do you believe that I know what's best for you? That even though those around you make choices which are not according to My will, not according to My laws of love and loving life, I am still able to use them in your life to bring about the best? I am able, and I will--so long as you love Me and trust Me with your life.

I will never cause the mistakes of others to deprive you of My best, My highest. It might be delayed, but I will have My way in your life regardless of the choices of others, if you keep the faith, fight, and don't give up. Sometimes what is "best" to Me is different than what you think of as "best." Sometimes My "best" means more brokenness, more compassion, more understanding of others, more humility. All of these qualities are part of My "best" in your life, and sometimes they come through breakings, and sometimes those breakings come through the wrongdoing of others.

My children, it is not that I desire you to be hurt, or that I engineer hurtful situations or circumstances, but sometimes through the attacks of the Enemy or the mistakes or sins or wrong decisions of others, you do suffer hurt. Nevertheless, I am able to turn it to good for you. And though I may have to correct others or even punish them for their actions, I am able to turn it to good for them too if they will let Me.

Trust in My love, that My plan is perfect, and that even when those around you act outside of the circle of My loving law, yet I am able to shield you and protect you, and only allow to touch you that which I am able to use for good in your life. Believe in this, My never-failing promise, and be set free! [8]

There are no exceptions to My promise that if you love Me and are called to My service, all things will work together for good in your life. You could think of nasty situations and scenarios all day, yet there isn't a single one you could come up with in your own mind, or any real-life example you can bring up, that I couldn't show you how there is some good that can be brought out of it--for you and for all involved. And finding the good in a bad situation isn't just a "glad game" exercise or a good idea; it's vital to your spiritual health.

If you can't accept that there could be a silver lining to some of the rain clouds of your past, then you'll probably never fully forgive and forget about those things, and that can lead to bitterness, which is a severely crippling spiritual sin.

A lot of people have unpleasant feelings about things that have happened in their past, whether it's something to do with an old Family policy, the way they were treated, something that happened, something that they didn't agree with, someone who hurt them, and on the list goes. A lot of people suffer from the memories of these things because they don't allow Me to show them the good that can be brought out of the situation.

A lot of people find it horrible when it's even suggested that they could find good in such a case, thinking that it minimizes what they went through. Such people tend to be quite self-righteous and blind, refusing to see that although I may not have agreed with what happened to them, all things work together for good to those who love Me and are called according to My purpose, and there just may be something in it for them to learn from. If nothing else, maybe I would use it to make them into a better person with more humility and compassion and empathy for others. But if you're stuck with blinders of bitterness on and all you can see is, "It was wrong!" then you'll never learn from the situation, you'll never forgive and forget, and this will hinder you spiritually.

It's well documented in My Word about the dangers of bitterness and how those things can grow and sour your outlook on life. For this reason it's vital that you do not allow yourself to look back at any situation, no matter how terrible it was, remembering only the bad. It may not be your favorite memory, it may even be painful, and you certainly may not have noticed any good from it so far. But if you'll reject the Enemy's negative spin and ask Me specifically how I would like to use that situation for good in your life, then I can melt that bitterness and can bring beauty out of your ashes.

What greater triumph is there than to bring good out of bad? That's the ultimate way to conquer your past hurts or things you didn't agree with--not by bitterness and thoughts of revenge, but by allowing Me to make you a better person on account of the bad that happened to you. That way the Devil doesn't win in any way. Not only was he unable to stop you via the difficulty, but he actually contributed to making you stronger because you learned and grew and became more humble and loving on account of it, not less so.

But if you refuse to do this, you're doing more than just holding on to anger and resentment and giving room for bitterness to grow. If you cannot let Me bring beauty from your ashes, what you are actually doing is blaming Me, saying that I am to blame because I allowed a situation in your life that has no good side, no positive benefits, and no way that I can use it in your life. Harboring resentment toward God is a very dangerous thing to do. When you do this, you are much more in the wrong than whatever or whomever caused you your previous hurt or anger.

You cannot discount the possibility that although some things were bad and were mistakes, I could have allowed them because I had a greater purpose in mind. Consider the all-time good example of Joseph and all that he went through--the rejection by his brothers, the misuse, the slavery, the heartache, the false accusations, the imprisonment--all bad things. Yet in the end he was able to clearly see that although those were all terrible things, I intended them for good in the long run. Had he held on to his bitterness and wasted away in prison or slavery blaming all involved for the rest of his days, he never would have risen above those things and fulfilled My purpose for him.

A man cannot be found more righteous than God. You can't sit there and tell Me that if you were Me, you'd have done it differently--which is basically what you do when you self-righteously judge the past and say that I shouldn't have let things happen. You know that I am bound to My Word, therefore you should assume that in all cases, no matter how you feel about what transpired, there is a silver lining for you, and it's your job to find it!

There is such freedom in letting Me show you how sad or bad situations can be used to make you better. Then, although you cannot fully endorse past mistakes as good things, you can see how I worked them into the great tapestry of your life, to make it well-rounded, whole, and beautiful. I'm not going to tell you that no one has ever made a mistake which hurt someone else and was displeasing in My sight, but I can tell you that no matter what the mistake was or how bad it hurt, there is always freedom to be found in seeking Me and rising above.

Don't self-righteously judge the things that you don't even fully understand. If you're not asking Me for the good side, then you're only seeing the bad and are a prejudiced, partial judge who only knows one half of the story. Ask Me to show you all sides, including the good part that you may not have even realized was there. Then you'll be free from these things that could hold you back or give place to bitterness. Your faith will be strengthened because you'll see that once again I always keep My Word, and all things truly do work together for good. [9]

(Dad speaking:) No matter what people do to you, or what circumstances turn out like, whether you get hurt accidentally or intentionally, you can't harden your heart. You just can't let your heart get hard toward people and their attitudes or actions, and even the hurtful things they might say or do. You can't do that, because if you do, eventually that hardness of heart creeps toward the Lord. It becomes like a bitterness toward the Lord for letting these things happen in your life, and that little root of bitterness or resentment, or that hardness of heart, will keep growing and spreading.

Even if the Lord allowed it, you have to tell yourself that it was for a good reason; that the Bible says "all things work together for good," so even this thing that hurt you is for some good. You might not understand it, you might have questions about it, but you still have to fight to stay soft in heart and loving toward the very people who've hurt you, offended you, or caused some sort of grounds for resentment.

Naturally you'll have questions about it, and the best thing to do is to ask the Lord to speak to you when things come up, to help you to understand it, to not be hardened in heart, and to cast your cares on Him. Try not to let these things move you. Ask the Lord to toughen you up in spirit a bit rather than getting hardened or calloused in heart. It's difficult to do, because the natural tendency is to justify being a little hardened about it. But that's really the worst thing you can do, because it only causes your spirit to become resentful, bitter, or self-righteous. It works against you if you allow yourself to become hardened to life's hurts, to people's hurts.

As difficult as it is to do--and it really is difficult, it takes the grace of God--the best thing to do is to fight to stay soft-hearted in spite of life's hurts and battles and mistreatment. Things go wrong sometimes, and often you feel the brunt of the hurt. But you have to remember that the Lord allows it for a good reason, and if you can just react humbly and call out to the Lord for His help and anointing to be able to take it, to stay soft and humble and kind no matter what, you'll not only be able to stay soft in heart, but you'll grow.

You'll grow in love, compassion, understanding, and humility--all the good qualities of the Spirit. It'll humble you to have to accept graciously that things aren't working out perfectly for you, that maybe not everyone likes you or enjoys your company all the time, just as you don't always like everyone else or always like their company all the time. That's very humbling and can be hard on your pride, but it's good for you to be humbled. The quicker you learn to be humble and gracious and take these things with love and humility, the more you will grow and be more like Jesus. (10)

I watch over each of My children with great love. I give them what they need. I give it to them at the time that they need it, and in the way they need it, and I make no mistake. I even use the mistakes of man to bring about My perfect will. For I know and understand the thoughts and the intents of the heart of every man. And though two people may never understand each other, and though some may never understand why one acted a certain way, and thus may find it hard in themselves to forgive, yet they can find relief from bitterness and find the strength to forgive by coming to Me and putting all things into My hand.

All things in your life are from Me. Do you think that I could not protect you and keep you from all harm if I wanted to, if that was the big plan of creation? Of course I could. All power is given unto Me. But I allow difficulties, pain, heartache, disappointment, mistreatment, injury, misuse and abuse. What I mean is, by not preventing it, I allow it. Therefore it is from Me, from My hand, because I did not raise My hand to stay it.

This is the foundation principle to getting over hurts of the past: You must believe that all in your life is from Me, in that I allowed it. If you can't receive this and have it strongly and ever in your heart and mind, then the temptation is always there to blame someone. People want to blame others. That's why it costs so much sometimes to forgive and forget.

When you forgive, you are releasing someone of the blame. And if you're holding on to that blame and self-righteously wanting to make others pay and suffer, then there is no forgiveness. The more of these emotions there are, the harder it is to realize that whatever the experience in question, it was from My hand, allowed by Me, even if not ordained or preferred by Me. To allow something when it is in your power to stop it is to take it as your own. Therefore, when I allow something, the act of not preventing it makes it as good as from My Own hand.

When you truly lay these bitternesses upon My altar, when you truly commit them into My hand and receive and accept all things as from Me, then I'm able to work a miracle in your heart and life. I'm able to pour My healing elixir of love into your heart in full measure. I'm able to soothe and heal and mend. I'm able to bind up the broken heart and make it a more loving, compassionate, tender and giving heart. I'm able to make you a stronger, better person, a more powerful channel and vessel of My love, and a pillar that others may lean on.

For when you lean on Me and when you cast yourself on Me, you're leaning on the greatest and most powerful source of wisdom, strength, help, grace and love. You're tapping into the divine resources, into the power that created the universe; and with this power, nothing can defeat you or discourage you or stop you. With Me, you are mighty in spirit, and no attack of the Enemy, no trial or tribulation, no act by another person, can move you. For I am the Rock, and My way is perfect. My Words are tried and proven, and I have never forsaken those that have put their trust in Me and cast their cares upon Me. (11)

The extent to which I am able to use circumstances in your life, and even perfect My will, depends upon you and how much you let Me have full sway in your life. My promise is true and unfailing--that I do all things well, that I will perfect that which concerns you, that all things will work together for good to those who love Me and are called according to My purpose. But the extent to which I'm able to work is up to you.

Even as I've promised that I answer prayer--the power of the prayer, and thus the power of the answer--depends upon you. My promise of Romans 8:28--that I will work all things together for your good--is dependent upon the condition of Romans 8:28, that you love Me, and that you're called according to My purpose. If you're not heeding My call and thus not obeying My will, giving your life to Me and letting Me work, then I'm not only unable to turn bad situations for your good, but I'm also unable to bless and reward you, for you're out of My will.

But the beauty of the promise is that the moment you come to Me, the moment you fulfill your part of the conditions--loving Me and yielding to Me--I begin to work, and use not only the present circumstances, but also all those of the past for your good. I am able to bring good out of all that has gone before, and all that happens presently, and all that will happen in the future, as long as you continue to fulfill the conditions of the promise.

Thus is the beauty and mystery of My promise fulfilled, that no matter what mess you find yourself in, no matter what wrongs you've committed or what wrongs have been committed against you, when you're loving Me and yielded to My will, My purpose in your life, I am able to turn all things for your good.

This doesn't mean that whenever something bad happens it's because you're out of My will. There are many times when I allow something specifically for the purpose of teaching a lesson, or to bring about a greater good, and it's through no fault of your own. But there are other times when you bring the difficulty upon yourself through your own foolishness or unyieldedness, or by straying from the path of My will. Other times it's through the wrong choices of those around you, or through your own wrong choices.

But in any case, no matter what the cause of the wrong, as you love Me and yield to My will, My plan, and trust Me for the victory, I am able to use any and all circumstances to perfect My will in your life, and to bring about the victory. The only conditions to this promise are there in the promise--"to those who love Me, and are called according to My purpose." What does that mean, "to be called according to My purpose?" It means simply being in My will, fulfilling My purpose for you.

It is not for you to judge My purpose, for sometimes My plan is simply waiting, simply trusting, simply yielding in patience and faith to what's coming next. Sometimes it's passing through the "Valley of Baca" (Psa.84:6) and learning there the lessons I have for you. Sometimes it's heeding My call to a great mission. Other times it's forsaking what's dear to you in order to fulfill My greater plan. Yet other times it's humbly serving in the small place I've given you. But no matter what the circumstance, as you fulfill My purpose for you, I will turn all things--even seemingly bad, difficult, wrongful circumstances--for your good! This is My promise to you, and it will never fail!

If you feel that things have happened in your life that you've not yet seen good come out of, check your heart to see if you're fulfilling My purpose. If you are, then simply wait, and you'll see My promise fulfilled in My time. This is part of being called to My purpose--fulfilling the part I've given you to play in My great plan. Some things you'll not see fulfilled immediately, but the reward of the promise will come. It will come, I say. [12]

Accepting What I've Done in Your Life

Where does bitterness come from? Why does one person have bitterness about things, and the next person, who might even appear to have more reasons or circumstances to be bitter about, not have bitterness? It comes from not accepting something that I've done in your life, or not accepting something that I've allowed to happen in your life, or not accepting even your own choices in life, which ultimately I allowed you to make.

Why is it that you see the man in the wheelchair or the woman with a handicapped child, and instead of their life being clouded and soured with bitterness, they're happy, giving, and loving? It's because they've accepted not only what I've done in their life, but also who they are. And who they are includes everything that's happened in their life, all the things that worked together to make them into who they are--the lessons they've learned, the mistakes they've made, the choices they've made, their experiences, all of it, the good and the bad. They accept that I love them, and they accept that they can not only be happy with their circumstances, but can even help others.

You might feel that your bitterness and resentment is not directed toward Me because you think it was your mistake in the first place, your fault, or your misjudgment of the situation that is the source of your bitterness. You might reason that I gave you a choice, so you feel it's your fault, you're the one to blame, and you continue to take out your frustrations on yourself by harboring this bitterness.

You not only have to accept the choice you made at the time, and stop punishing yourself for what you today think was the wrong choice, but you have to accept that I, the great God of the universe, Who has all power, allowed it to happen. I could have changed your mind for you. I could have intervened in some way and easily arranged a change in circumstances. I could have caused events to happen to help you make a different choice, because I know all things and I am all-powerful. [13]

Accepting, believing and receiving--these are three of My keys to victory! These are all part of yieldedness. Saying, "Yes, Lord, I accept what You're doing, or have done, in My life. I believe that all that I'm experiencing at present, or have experienced in the past, is from Your hand, and I yield to You completely and wholeheartedly. Do with me as You will." This is yieldedness. This is one of the surest preventions of bitterness, and one of the surest cures to overcoming bitterness--to accept, believe, and receive My will, My love, and My truth in your life.

You must accept what's happening, or has happened, around you, and believe that My promise is true--that I'm in control, and have been in control. Nothing happens and not a hair of your head perishes but I know. Even seemingly bad,

difficult or trying circumstances I am able to turn and use for your good. You must receive what I bring, or have brought, into your life. You must open your life to Me and receive, if I am to work in your heart as I would wish. (14)

Pride, Resentment, and Bitterness

Pride keeps you from seeing things as I see them. Pride opens the door for resentment, because you automatically feel you deserve better. It keeps you from humbling yourself when I allow things in your life to break you or soften you or teach you things, and instead it causes resentment. That's why I say that when you yield to pride, resentment will often follow. Everyone goes through situations in life that they wish hadn't happened, or that had happened differently, or situations when they are wronged.

If a person is humble, and can accept things from My hand, and learn to see things the way I see them, those negative circumstances are steppingstones for good, and don't derail them in any way. But when a person yields to pride, it's not long before something comes up that they can't get over, that they can't understand, or that they assume the worst about--and then resentment begins to build in their heart.

It's the natural, sinful, rebellious nature of man to think that he knows better than Me. That's why you have to constantly pray for My humility, because it's not something that comes naturally. It's something you have to want, cultivate, and fight for. But along with that humility comes grace, peace, understanding, acceptance, and many gifts that make life pleasant and a wonderful learning experience, rather than a journey of pain, unhappiness, resentment and bitterness. (15)

Resentment can be the forerunner to bitterness, or a symptom of bitterness. Harboring resentment can lead to bitterness. Resentment doesn't always lead to bitterness, but many times it does, especially when resentment is allowed to build up, one resentment on top of another. It just gets worse and worse.

When you resent something that someone has done, it's like a crack is opened in the door, and the Enemy's poisonous gas and lies can seep in through that crack. Or it's like a wedge that starts out small, but gets bigger and bigger, because it allows the Enemy to come in more and more with resentment and his poisonous thoughts. So even though resentment isn't bitterness in the beginning, it can lead to it, because it's a crack in the armor, that first little seed being planted.

But feeling resentment in your heart doesn't necessarily mean you're bitter, as long as you turn around, cast your burdens on Me, and forsake the resentment you feel. When you lift up your hands to Me and say, "Lord, please wash me clean," then I am able to take the resentment and give you peace in its place, and I prevent it from turning to bitterness.

However, when you hold on to these resentments, they fester and become bitterness, which is a much more serious and long-term problem. So forsaking the resentments as they come up, much like shedding the weights, is the key to staying free of bitterness. (16)

(Dad speaking:) When you have bitterness or resentment in your heart, you often don't see things clearly. Even special little things, little rewards of the Lord's love, don't mean as much, because you have this big bitterness blocking everything. But once you just give that to the Lord, we up Here can help you so much more. Things are a lot clearer, you can see things better, and you feel and experience the Lord's love a lot more.

Keep giving it to the Lord. Keep coming to the Lord and loving Him and committing all to Him, and He never fails. Even if people fail, or situations fail, or you feel like the Family has failed in some way, or that those you loved and respected and looked up to didn't make a place for you--the Lord never fails! His plan never fails, His love never fails, and He has His hand on your life. So if you can trust in that and believe that, you'll be a lot happier. (17)

Believe in My love, and you will find rest. You'll find the peace and the comfort needed to let go of that which you have stored in your heart. You'll find the strength you need by looking to Me to sweep out the dark corners of your heart, and to let go of the pain, hurt and bitterness that you've allowed to grow and accumulate in your heart. This will be such a release! You have but to call on the power of Heaven to cleanse and wash you. Confess your faults to Me, and I will heal you.

The key to all of this is found in one simple word--trust. Trust that I will hold you as you let go of these things you've been holding on to for such a long time. Trust Me to clean out your heart, and to give you a new life. Trust Me to hold your heart gently as you give it to Me for cleaning and mending. I'll return it to you pure and perfect--perfect in My love, mercy, tenderness, and humility. For in humility will you find the perfection of My Spirit.

As you put forth the effort of trusting Me, then I will take over and do the work. I'll clean out your heart if you will but say yes to Me. If you'll but acknowledge that you wish to rid the chambers of your heart of the old, of the musty, of the dark and damp clutter, and that you wish to start anew, to be swept clean, washed afresh, and rejuvenated by the power of My Spirit, I will answer you. I've heard your prayer and your cries, and I'll give you life once more--the life of My Spirit and the joy of My love. Trust, accept, believe and receive! (18)

Ask for Prayer Against Bitterness

The Enemy will try to tell you that there's no way you can ask for prayer against bitternes. He'll tell you it's impossible; it'll be too humbling, and it's just going to cost too much to do it. Plus, he'll tell you that it's not even necessary. He'll tell you any and all of the lies that he can possibly tell you!

This is a golden opportunity for you to have prayer and be delivered completely by faith. It's not an easy thing to do, but it's so much easier than dragging bitterness around with you for years and years to come. You can have great deliverance and freedom from its terrible bondage by humbling yourself momentarily and having prayer, and then you'll reap the wonderful freedom and blessings of prayer for eternity!

Holding on to your bitterness will hold you back from making progress, or believing in My Words, or accepting My gifts and blessings in your life. If you're willing to let go of this bitterness, then your whole life can change! You can be even happier, and more fulfilled and used and challenged.

There are so many advantages to asking for prayer and taking the step of faith to forsake your bitterness. You'll be free of the terrible burden and weight you feel. You'll be free of the negative thoughts and feelings that are always going through your mind as you mull over the ways things worked out and how bad you feel about it all. You'll be free of the ill effects on your spirit and even your health. You'll be more easygoing, full of faith, and find it so much easier to accept the things that happen from day to day with a spirit of faith and positiveness. You won't be looking at everything through the thick, dark cloud of bitterness and selfishness. This can all be replaced with a spirit of meekness and greater acceptance, which will make you happy.

The Devil is so happy when people choose to stay bitter, because basically they're operating at half potential--even less than half potential in many cases, because they're slowly dying more and more in the spirit. The bitterness is continuing to poison their whole outlook and attitude, rendering them practically powerless.

It's very hard for you who are afflicted with bitterness to see anything clearly through the eyes of My Spirit, because you're blinded by bitterness. So you have to take a very big plunge of faith to ask for prayer and deliverance, and it's to your credit when you do. It shows a very desperate spirit when you humble yourself to ask for prayer, and that very desperation of spirit draws the power of Heaven to be released and come to your aid.

There's no hesitation in Heaven! It's not just a puny little answer to your prayer, but rather there's a great thrust of help from the spirit world, a great and powerful and mighty anointing of My Spirit in answer to your prayers.

At your faintest cry for help, all the power of Heaven is released. Even a faint cry resounds in My courts when it is powered by your desperation and desire for help and change. My ear is not heavy, that it cannot hear the pleas of My children. Though the cry be faint, if it is sincere and wholehearted, then My promises hold true.

The mighty force of My hand is raised to break the chains of bitterness and free you, My darling child. I only wait for your step of faith--and it need not be great. You need not feel that you must be eloquent or worthy or have great faith--you only need to ask for My help, and it will be given to you. Then believe in your complete deliverance by faith. (19)

My Words are true, and just as I've promised, when you pray for My help and for deliverance from the problem of bitterness and the grasp it had on your mind and spirit and life, you really are delivered from its grip! This weak area is no longer a tool in the Enemy's hand. Where he previously had free rein to do as he wished, a standard has been raised against the spiritual inroad of the Enemy.

But it doesn't mean that you won't have to continue to fight against the attempts of the Enemy to still try to discourage you and weaken your faith in the victory. This will now be the Enemy's main target of attack--he will try to cause you to not believe in the victory, to doubt your deliverance, to criticize your own progress, to belittle your faith in My power and in the power of the prayers of your loved ones, to cause you to doubt My Words of prophecy, to get you to look at how you feel and to walk by your feelings instead of faith in Me, to look at your circumstances and the condition of your vessel instead of fixing your eyes on Me and My Words.

You must continue to fight and have faith, and simply trust that I'm able to perform all that I've promised and spoken. In doing this, you'll allow the victory to blossom. You'll continue to receive and accept and manifest your faith in My Word, in My power to help you, and you'll keep your victory and continue to make progress. (20)

1. Goals for 1998! #3160:190-193
2. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:126-135
3. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:143-147
4. Crisis of Faith!--More on Doubts! Part 3 #3090:30-37
5. Training Winning Teams, Part 3 #3553:114-121
6. Keep the Faith! #3459:118-122
7. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:80-86
8. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:35-41
9. Shooting Straight, Part 7 #3506:4-14
10. Issues, Part 10 #3397:30-34
11. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:110-115
12. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:44-51
13. New Year's Prayers and Goals #3177:155-158
14. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:151, 152
15. Keep the Faith! #3459:123-125
16. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:17-20
17. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:73, 74
18. How to Recognize and Get Rid of Bitterness! #3170:155-157
19. Freedom Through United Prayer! #3171:3-11
20. Freedom Through United Prayer! #3171:35-37