

Behold Test 3

Forgiveness vs. Bitterness

1. Write from memory the definition of the Fruit of Righteousness - Forgiveness:

2. To show that you not only know the definition of forgiveness but that you also understand its meaning, please give two examples of how you have exhibited forgiveness since you began your study of this Fruit of Righteousness:

a) _____

b) _____

3. Write from memory the definition of the Work of Self-Righteousness - Bitterness:

4. To show that you not only know the definition of bitterness, but that you also understand its meaning, please give two examples of ways in which you exhibited bitterness in your life before you knew it was an alternative to the Fruit of Righteousness - Forgiveness:

a) _____

b) _____

5. Using your dictionary, dissect and define the words in parenthesis found in Ephesians 4:31,32:

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” - Ephesians 4:31,32

“Let all (bitterness) _____, and (wrath) _____, and (anger) _____, and (clamor) _____, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all (malice) _____: And be ye (kind) _____ one to another, (tenderhearted) _____, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” - Ephesians 4:31,32

6. Information Application: Please re-read Ephesians 4:31,32. Using your dissected and defined meanings, rewrite in your own words (paraphrase) what this verse means to you. This method of studying your Bible will help you to better understand what God is trying to teach you, so that you are more apt to apply it in your life.

7. In your own words, please share the insights, if any, God showed you through Bro. Curington's explanation of the above verse, Ephesians 4:31,32. How have these truths helped you yield to the Spirit's Fruit of Righteousness - Forgiveness in your every day life?

8. Please review the Lord's Model Prayer, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." - Matthew 6:9-13

This model prayer given by our Lord is a template for how we ought to pray. This model teaches us how to pray using a process indicated by four specific steps. These steps help clarify the transition that prayer makes from His greatness to our weaknesses, from our needs to the needs of others, and to get the focus off of ourselves and onto others. Please provide the four steps below, briefly explaining the purpose each step accomplishes:

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____

Step 4: _____

9. Please review the verses that follow the Lord's prayer and follow the information application below:

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"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

- Matthew 6:14,15

Information Application: Please rewrite in your own words (paraphrase) what these verses mean to you. More specifically, describe the importance of this process of forgiveness and how it will keep you from falling into the

Work of Self-Righteousness - Bitterness:

10. In Bro. Curington's book, *Tall Law: When trying hard to do better isn't good enough!*, Bro. Curington explains the difference between "conforming by transforming" and "conforming by performing." In your own words, please describe what this difference means to you:

11. Using your dictionary, dissect and define the words in parenthesis found in Luke 17:3,4:

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." - Luke 17:3,4

"Take (heed)_____ to yourselves: If thy
(brother)_____ (trespass)_____ against thee,
(rebuke)_____ him; and if he (repent)_____,
forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn
again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." - Luke 17:3,4

12. Information Application: Please re-read Luke 17:3,4. Using your dissected and defined meanings, rewrite in your own words (paraphrase) what this verse means to you. This method of studying your Bible will help you to better understand what God is trying to teach you so that you are more apt to apply it in your life.

Student Self-Evaluation

-Using Information To Develop Your Personal Relation

As a developing Christian, God will place you in circumstances that will bring you opportunities to openly express forgiveness. While in these situations, you may find yourself submitting to this fruit, or you may find yourself

refusing to release your offender and developing a root of bitterness from those compressed feelings. When we “try hard to do better,” we often fail and hold grudges that bond us in bitterness. When we learn to yield to God’s power, He will give us the ability to release our offender from earned or alleged resentment or indebtedness.

After learning these truths, how have you found yourself responding to these opportunities:

- ☐ - I usually exhibit the Fruit of Righteousness - Forgiveness.
- ☐ - I struggle with yielding to the Work of Self-Righteousness - Bitterness.

How do you think you could forgive when your flesh tries to cling to those feelings of resentment and hold to those who you feel are indebted to you? Remember, trying harder to do better is not the right answer!

FOR THE DISCIPLER’S USE ONLY:

1. Do you feel your student understands the fruit of Righteousness—Forgiveness and the devil’s offsetting work of Bitterness?

YesNo

2. Would you feel their grasp of these two alternative actions and reactions is:

StrongStrengtheningAdequateMinimalWeak

3. Do you believe this student responds somewhat consistently with forgiveness when faced with adversity?

OftenSometimesSeldomNever

4. Do you believe this student is ready to progress to the next fruit test of Dependability?

YesNo

5. If yes, what leads you to feel this way?

6. If no, what are your reasons?