



# FRUIT OF FORGIVENESS MINISTRY

Newsletter

Volume 1 August 2023 Issue 1

## WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!



Visit us at: [www.fruitofforgiveness.org](http://www.fruitofforgiveness.org)

### Our Mission Statement:

"...to teach biblical forgiveness and bring healing and freedom through Jesus Christ."

### Our Vision Statement:

"...to share God's Word with the world and transform the lives of individuals through the power of forgiveness."

## ...AND PODCAST!

*The Forgiveness Journey*



*Forgiveness paths are created through discussions, conversations, and presentations.*

*VISIT our podcast anywhere you listen to your favorite podcast.*

## From Our Co-founders...

**H**ello and welcome to our ministry newsletter! We are thrilled that you have chosen to read our inaugural edition. Our ministry is devoted to the power of forgiveness and the freedom it brings. When we open our hearts and minds to the idea of forgiveness, we can experience peace, joy, satisfaction, and love.

We invite you to explore the articles, ministry updates, messages, guest highlights, member spotlights, and other resources in this newsletter. Our mission is to teach biblical forgiveness and bring freedom through Jesus Christ. Our vision is to share God's word with the world and transform lives through the power of forgiveness.

Everything we do in our ministry is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. During His time on earth, Jesus demonstrated the power of forgiveness by asking His Father God to forgive the people who had killed Him. We believe that this is an incredible example of how we should forgive those who have hurt us, including ourselves. There is no excuse not to forgive.

My wife Rosie and I founded this ministry in 2010 to help people break free from the chains of unforgiveness. Over the years, we have helped hundreds of people through our conferences, workshops, small groups, and most recently, our Forgiveness Journey podcast.

We hope that the information in our newsletters will help you build a strong biblical foundation for victory, even in the face of trials, tribulations, and challenges. We would love for you to become a part of our ministry family by praying for us and supporting our work.

May God bless you abundantly,  
**Pastor Dave & Rosie Hill**



*"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone..."*

*The Bible teaches us that forgiveness is vital to our spiritual well-being. Holding onto unforgiveness gives power to the offender to manipulate our thoughts and feelings, causing bitterness and resentment. But when we forgive, we release the offender from their debt to us, and we free ourselves from the covert bondage of unforgiveness.*

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Biblical forgiveness is the act of letting go of resentment and anger towards someone who has wronged you. It is a decision to choose love over bitterness, and to trust that God will bring justice in His own way.

## SPOTLIGHT

Our Featured Contributor...

**BRIAN JOHNSON**



### Freedom in Forgiveness

*I'm a big fan of movies. There are several lines from various movies that I could quote because I've seen them so many times. One of those is "The Karate Kid". If you haven't seen it, it's about a kid named Daniel who moves to a different city and starts to get bullied at his new school. He wants to get back at his bullies and learn to protect himself, so he asks the maintenance man, at his apartment complex, to teach him karate. Mr. Miyagi, the maintenance man, teaches him in a very unconventional fashion by having him do chores around his house. Daniel is told to wax cars, paint a fence, sand a floor, and paint a house. He becomes frustrated until he discovers that these chores were building the foundation for karate.*

*Just like Mr. Miyagi, there are times God teaches us by having us do unconventional things or things that don't make sense at the time. Forgiveness can be one of those things.*

*The natural thought is to get back at the person that hurt us. The worse the hurt, the more we feel we have the right to be vengeful.*

*John 8:32 says "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 17:17 says "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." God's word is truth. When we live according to what it says, it makes us free.*

*We've all been hurt before. Everyone from the kid in elementary school whose friend left them to play with other people to the adult who had something stolen from them by a family member, pain knows no bounds. The bible says to "be angry and sin not" (Ephesians 4:26). Anger isn't the issue. In fact, there are times when we should be angry. The question is, what are we doing with that emotion? Are we trying to reconcile and make things right or are we planning our opportunity to get revenge?*

*It's difficult to hold onto the level of anger needed to be vengeful. Have you ever thought about what it takes to maintain that anger? You have to think about the hurt daily. Meditate on it. Like a professional athlete that pins a newspaper article on a bulletin board for motivation, you take that pain and pin it on the bulletin board of your mind and heart until you've gotten your revenge. What a stark contrast to what David said in Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Meditating on God's word and putting it on the bulletin board of your heart prevents sin.*

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*Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die, is a truthful saying. Holding onto that bitterness and anger hurts your physical body and hurts you spiritually, as well. Instead of being freed through obedience to God's word, you allow yourself to be in bondage to anger and unforgiveness.*

*Jesus thought reconciliation was so important that, in Matthew 5:23-24, he said "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."*

*So, why do we forgive? Because we've been commanded to. Ephesians 4:32 says "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." We also forgive because we've been forgiven. Paul said it in Ephesians, he also says it in Colossians 3:13 "Forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." All of us deserve death and hell but God forgave us. We should do the same to others.*

*How do we forgive? First of all, we can't do it on our own strength. We need the power of the Holy Spirit, and it can start with prayer. Pray for the individual that hurt you. Matthew 5:44 says, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;". This is one of those Daniel in "The Karate Kid" moments. Why would I pray for someone that hurt me? Because, as you pray for their good and not for their hurt, God will start to change your heart. He'll begin to remove the pain which will free you. He knows how much it hurts you to hold onto pain and like a good father that loves his child, he wants what's best for you.*

*The question is, will you be obedient? Will you trust God's word? If you want to be free from the pain caused because of what someone did to you, forgive them. It goes against what we would naturally do but when we're obedient to God's word and it works, it gives us the ability to give him the glory. You are able to take off the shackles of unforgiveness. Do what you know to do. Don't delay! There's freedom in forgiveness.*

***The Fruit of Forgiveness Ministry is a 501c (3) not-for-profit organization.***

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