

A sunset over a body of water with a thatched umbrella in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of purple, red, and orange. The sun is a bright yellow circle on the horizon, reflecting on the water. The umbrella is a dark silhouette on the left side of the frame.

The Inner Peace Of Forgiveness

Building Bridges

“Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Situations”

Psa. 105:17-20

Psa. 105:17 He sent a man before them, *even* Joseph, *who* was sold for a servant:

18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.

20 The king sent and loosed him; *even* the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

Gen. 50:20 But as for you, **ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

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Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Review

Our theme this year is “*Building Bridges.*” A few weeks ago we began looking at a different way to “*build bridges,*” and that is through *forgiveness*. The first place to start was with our relationship with our Creator:

“Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Sins”

To come to Christ and receive forgiveness of our sins includes faith, and the humbling of our pride in admitting our sinfulness in contrast to God’s holiness.

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A very challenging aspect of forgiveness is in regard to ourselves.

“Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Self”

To forgive ourselves is admitting that we cannot continue punishing ourselves for the sins of the past, but to trust that God has placed our sins behind His back, as far as the east is from the west.

Last week we moved to a more difficult aspect of “Building Bridges” regarding forgiveness:

“Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Sinners”

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To forgive those who have offended us, hurt us, and/or scarred us is perhaps one of greatest challenges regarding our faith.

Forgiveness is the key to unlock the shackles of a wounded soul bound by memories of hurt, resentment and bitter disappointment.

Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Sins
(**Emphasis on Christ as Savior**)

Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Self
(**Emphasis on individual-self**)

Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Sinners
(**Emphasis on individual-others**)

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Building Bridges of Inner Peace via Forgiveness of Situations

I. THE PAST TO FORGET

Phil. 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, **forgetting those things which are behind**, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

A. The Reasoning – “...I count...”

B. The Reality – “...forgetting...and reaching forth...”

C. The Reason – “...for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

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II. THE PRESENT TO FIGHT

Every day is a new challenge and opportunity to face the reality of life. How we face it has a tremendous ramification upon our inner peace, in both the present and the future.

1 Cor. 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; **so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**

27 But **I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection:** lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

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A. We must Fight Against our Emotions

Gen. 42:21 And they said one to another, We *are* verily guilty concerning our brother, in that **we saw the anguish of his soul**, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.

22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.

23 And **they knew not that Joseph understood them**; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.

24 And **he turned himself about from them, and wept**; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

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Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and **he that ruleth his spirit** than he that taketh a city.*

Prov. 25:28 *He that **hath no rule over his own spirit** is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

Gal. 5:16 *This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.***

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B. We must Fight Against our Experiences

Gen. 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 **So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God:** and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

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C. We must Fight Against our Egos

Pro 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Jas. 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

1 Pet. 5:6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God**, that he may exalt you in due time:

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III. THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A. Anticipate Problems

Prov. 13:23 Much food *is in* the tillage of the poor: but **there is *that is* destroyed for want of judgment.**

B. Apply the Principles

Col. 4:5 **Walk in wisdom toward them that are *without*,** redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

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C. Appreciate the Prospect

Gen. 45:7 “And God sent me before you **to preserve you a posterity** in the earth...”

Deut. 32:29 O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, ***that they would consider their latter end!***

Prov. 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, **that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.**

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2 Pet. 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, **the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**

Rom. 14:12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

2 Cor. 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

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Conclusion

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Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Eph. 2:14 “For **he is our peace...**”

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