

Series: Thriving in Faith

Title: The Blight of Bitterness

Text: (Heb 12:14-17)

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Bitterness is unresolved resentment that stems from an insult or emotional injury.

lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you...

Illus: Bitterness is like a Dandelion.

A Tap Root sustains the plant until it is dug out.

Cut the head off, and it comes back.

Bitterness keeps coming back and refocusses on the next person.

(Acts 8:23) *For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.*

You Puke your bitterness on the next person who doesn't deserve it.

Bitterness is the only substance that eats its own container.

I. The Scope of Bitterness

(Heb 12:15) *"Any man"* (1 Cor 10:13) *"Every man"* (Gal 6:1)

II. The Sin of Bitterness

(Heb 12:15b) *trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

A. Resentment stemming from our Discontent of God Grace

To consider as an injury or affront; to be angry or provoked.

B. Resentment stemming from the repercussions of our Disobedience:

Simon the Sorcerer: (Acts 8:23)

Unrepentant Sinner: (Rom 3:14) *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

(Eph 4:26, 30-31)

All bitterness is sin and is never justified in the bible.

III. The Source of Bitterness

(Heb 12:15) *"fail of the grace of God"*

We fail to appropriate the Grace of God to heal our hurts and the resentments that spring from them.

If you fail to appropriate the grace of God for salvation you will go to hell when you die. (John 3:18) *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

If you fail to appropriate the grace of God, after salvation, for every situation you face you will have hell on earth.

(2 Cor 9:8) *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

We Fail of the Grace of God in our ...

A. Lust: "I want it and God refuses it."

1. Position: - Korah (Num 16)

(1 Cor 3:3) *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

(Gal 5:26) *Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

We Fail of the Grace of God in our Lusts for..

2. Possessions: - Ahab/Jezebel (1 Kings 21:6) *And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.*

(Phil 4:11) *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

We Fail of the Grace of God in our Lusts for..

3. Personhood: - Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 37:4) *And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.*

A true test of Faith is when your friend is promoted over you
If you allow yourself to get bitter, you will become what bitterness makes you.

We Fail of the Grace of God in our ...

B. Loss: - "I had it and God took it"

1. Position: - Saul (1 Sam 18) He hated David for it.
2. Possessions: - Job's Wife (Job 2) *Curse God & die!*
3. Person: -

Daniel was hated by the kings counselors.

Joseph hated by his brothers. (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.*

(Ps 84:11) *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

It's not wrong to Hurt for someone, But it is wrong to Hate someone. ***(That's the Sin of Malice)***

IV. The scourge of Bitterness is it's Personal Effect on you!

We grieve the God who comforts us.

(Eph 4:30) *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We Become Captive to our Bitterness:

(2 Cor 10:4-5) *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

A Stronghold is a deeply rooted, faulty thinking pattern, that the devil has established as a beach head, and now is assaulting our thinking with.

(Eph 4:27) *27 Neither give place to the devil*

The Devil's lies exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

When we encounter a thought that is against God's Word, we are not to consider it, but to Cast it down!

It is exalting itself against the knowledge of God!

Instead of you casting it down, It casts you down and holds
You Captive!

***The biggest battles are not the things going on around us,
but the things going on inside our heart.***

Bitterness, Worry, Anxiety, Anger, Fear, Lust

You cannot change what's on the inside, by positive thinking!
We have to let the Holy Spirit expose the sin that's beneath
the sin that is be-setting us.

(Ps 139:23-24) *Search me, O God, and know my heart:
try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any
wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

How Strongholds Work:

Worry, Fear, Desire for Control, Pride, Desire to be King,
Love of Self, Unbelief.

We need to ask why we have the strongholds.

**You will find there is a sin beneath, supporting this sin
of Bitterness.**

Worry is based in **fear**? Ask yourself: ***What am I afraid of?***
I am **afraid** that **I cannot control** things in my life?

Why do I want to be in **control**?

Because I believe ***I can do a better job*** than God.

Why do I believe I can do a better job than God, **Pride**.

Why do I have **Pride** problem? Because I want to be **King**.

Why do I want to be **King**, B/c ***I love myself*** more than God.

Why do ***I love myself the most?***

Because ***I don't believe God like I SHOULD.***

When we change the root, we change the fruit.

A Common Obstacle to tearing down strongholds is...

We justify & defend our sin by comparing ourself to others.
(2 Cor 10:12) *For we dare not make ourselves of the number,
or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves:
but they measuring themselves by themselves, and **comparing
themselves among themselves, are not wise.***

We can always find someone worse than us, but how do we
stack up to Jesus?

**B. The scourge of Bitterness is it's Public Effects on
others around us:**

We Exhibit The opposite of ...(Eph 4:29-31)

*Corrupt communication proceeding out of your mouth,
which tears others down,*

*Our bitterness, causes us to communicate our wrath, anger,
clamour, evil speaking, with all malice:*

*We cannot be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving
one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

We have lost sight of what He forgave us of!

V. The Solution to Bitterness

Follow peace and holiness, & Stop Picking the Scab

It's never going to heal until we dress it properly.

A. Confession of Sin: (1 Jn 1:9)

1. Def- to agree with God: Our Bitterness is Sin.

We are in Sin! Not a weakness/struggle, **Sin!**

2. God wipes the record clean. (Justification)

B. Consecration of Self:

1. Give God your Resentment:

(1 Pet 5:7) *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

2. Give God your Rights:

The Dead have no rights.

The Dead have no personal agenda's.

The Dead do not get offended.

(Rom 12:1-2) *Reasonable Service.*

C. Concentration on the Savior: (Is 26:3) *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

1. His Cross: (Heb 12:2) *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Remember what He endured because of you.

Rejoice that He loved us enough to do this for you.

2. His Character: (Phil 2:5-8)

God is not a tyrant. He loves us.

God wants what's best for us.

3. His Promises: (2 Pet 1:3-4)

D. Communication with the Savior: (Acts 16:6)

1. Prayer: 2 Way Communication

2. Praise:

(Phil 4:6-7) *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

(Eph 4:20-32) *20 But ye have not so learned Christ;*

You didn't get this bitterness from Jesus.

It came from your Flesh!

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

The Firery Darts of the Devil are exalting themselves against the knowledge of God.

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

This Empowers us to be honest with God & ourself @ our flesh.

We can Now...

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.