

Calling ahead of us is GREATER than the 'negative' behind us.

**Two Truths For Everyone:**

- 1) You have been **hurt**.
- 2) You must **completely forgive** the one who did it.

**What Complete Forgiveness is NOT:**

- Approval or denial of what they did
- Pretending we are not hurt

**Signs We Are NOT Over/It:**

- We can relive it like it was yesterday
- We imagine the downfall of the one who did it
- We harbor negative feelings and emotions
- We think we are better than them
- We can't imagine going the 2<sup>nd</sup> mile for them

**Ephesians 4:29**

Let **no corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but **only** such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give **grace** to those who hear.

Words create and affect the **atmosphere**.

When it comes to "it" and "them" --

Words can be used to burn, to remind, and to seek pity.

1) Embrace God's **zero tolerance policy** for words that lack **grace**.

**Vocalization** of wrongs almost always leads to **distortions** in the soul.

Our use of words can easily encroach onto **God's territory** OR the devil's **character!**

When we try to get the last **word**, we often lose **control**.

**James 3:6a (NKJV)**

... the tongue is a **fire**, a world of iniquity.

**Proverbs 29:11**

A fool gives **full vent** to his spirit, but a wise man **quietly** holds it back.

**Ephesians 4:30**

And **do not grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

## 2) Recognition and Resolve:

A) We can **grieve the Holy Spirit**

### Holy Spirit:

- God's presence within me
- God's pledge to me
- God's possession of me

### I Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? You are **not** your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a **price**. So glorify God in your body.

## 2) Recognition and Resolve:

A) We can **grieve the Holy Spirit**

B) Resolve: to not allow my hurt to bring me to **hurt the Holy Spirit**.

Before "it" is about me & them, it's about **God and I**.

### Ephesians 4:31-32a

Let **all** bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be **put away** from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted ...

3) Go for the **inner victory** within yourself (not the 'victory' you want over them because of 'it!').

### Ephesians 4:31-32

- There ARE reasons to be bitter, angry, slanderous, etc.
- These things grieve God and there is a better way = so *put away* ...
- The command is to BE a type of person more than feel a certain way

### Ephesians 4:32b

... **forgiving** one another, **as** God in Christ forgave **you**.

### Components of The Inner Victory:

- a) Remembering **our own sinfulness**
- b) Understanding how **God forgave me**

### Hebrews 10:17-18

... he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds **no** more."  
<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is **no** longer any offering for sin.

### **Psalm 103:12**

... as far as the east is from the west, so **far** does He remove our transgressions from us.

### **I Corinthians 13:5 (CSB)**

[Love] is not irritable, and does not keep a **record of wrongs**

### **Ephesians 5:1-2a**

Therefore, be **imitators of God**, as **beloved** children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and **gave himself up** for us

### **Components of The Inner Victory:**

- a) Remembering **our own sinfulness**
- b) Understanding how **God forgave me**
- c) Embracing the **privilege of our calling**
- d) Knowing (some of) **God's ways** ...
- e) Finding our **fullness** in Christ alone

To look like Jesus, I must first and continually look **AT and TO** Him.

What they did	WHO/WHOSE I am
What they did	WHAT Jesus has done
What they did	WHAT I have IN Him

4) Like Jesus, we too must **give up some things**.

- a) **Vindication** (*He will lift us up in due time*)
- b) **Vengeance** (Romans 12:17-19)

5) Like Jesus, we must **commit** and then **keep it** for life!

- a) Commit to **pray for them**
- b) Commitments need **renewal**
- c) Commitments need **beginnings** too!