

The Power of Seeking Forgiveness

Judy had no idea what she was in for when she signed up for the week of intensive training at New Hope Bible Church. A recent widow, she was not too excited when Dennie asked her to seek forgiveness from her first husband, with whom she had not spoken to in years. She was very surprised by what happened when she took that hard step of obedience. She could not wait to share her experience with the rest of the group – now she shares it with you...

My former husband lives in Montana; I live in Virginia. We had not talked to each other for 15 years. My discipler asked me to write a list to forgive him. Next I prayed through a list of my sins against him. Then I prepared a list of things for which I would ask his forgiveness. I was apprehensive about phoning him, but I had prayed "for such at time as this."

When I called him, I identified myself as, "Judy, the mother of your children." He was very surprised to hear my voice, but immediately began conversing with me in a very pleasant manner. I told him I wanted to ask him some questions, so eventually he said, "What are the questions?" With the first one, which was for my explosive temper, he started talking again, saying he forgave me for everything a long time ago. Then he replied to my specific query by saying, "I forgive you." With the successive questions, he elaborated on each one and then forgave me. I started with seven questions, but he brought up two more incidents for which I sought his forgiveness. I was amazed that God prepared me to not be defensive or accusatory. It was a humbling experience! After forgiving me, I was surprised that he invited me to call him when I was in the area visiting again. When I hung up the phone, this difficult act of obedience elicited my immediate release and a repeated "Wow!" response!

About a week later I received a letter from him with the amazing greeting, "Dear Judy, the devoted and loving mother of our children." He reminisced about the good times we had shared in our marriage. Although he was not a Christian while we were married, the wording of his letter indicated that he might have become one. His gracious letter concluded by wishing me happiness, time with family and that I have the assurance of my salvation.