

# FREEDOM FROM BITTERNESS

JULY 20, 2025 | DR. GEORGE CRABB

"But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me." (Acts 8:20-24)

## INTRODUCTION

- Philip preaches in Samaria (Acts 8:5)
- Simon the sorcerer (Act 8:9)
- Simon makes profession of faith & baptized (Acts 8:13)
- Simon, Peter & John come to Samaria (Acts 8:14)

"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;" (Hebrews 12:15) bitterness yields later fruit of destruction

## 1. THE Reason FOR BITTERNESS

"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." (James 3:14)

"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:" (2 Corinthians 9:8)

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

## 2. THE Result OF BITTERNESS

"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;" (Hebrews 12:15)

A. Destroys Self

*"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"*  
(Ephesians 4:31)

1. Wrath: the commitment to punish someone who has hurt you. *extreme, intense, burning, revenge minded, anger*
2. Anger: always near the boiling point ready to explode with hurtful words and actions. *hostile, fighting, feeling to hurt*
3. Clamour: to make a loud sound. *Screamers, whiners, argumentative. Not enjoyable company. - loud voices in a mob*
4. Evil speaking: when we attempt to destroy someone's reputation or character through gossip and innuendo. *- gossip, lies*
5. Malice: depraved behavior of all sorts. *- intent/desire to plan to injure someone*

B. Defiles Others

*"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;"* (Hebrews 12:15)

### 3. THE Remedy FOR BITTERNESS

A. Repent

*put off  
evil plans  
& thoughts*

*"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."* (Ephesians 4:30-32)

*repent*

*"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."*  
(Acts 8:22)

*forgive*

*"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."* (Colossians 3:13)

not your  
revenge

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

B. Remove and replace

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"  
(Ephesians 4:31)

a. BY LIVING IN GOD'S WORD

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

b. BY LIVING IN THE PRAYER CLOSET

"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;" (Matthew 5:44)

c. BY LIVING IN THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" (Ephesians 5:18)

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

C. Remember to Forgive

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."  
(Ephesians 4:32)

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (Colossians 3:13)

**Quote:** Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is the power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.

**Quote:** Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me.

#### D. Relationship

*"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."  
(John 15:10)*

*"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)*

*"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33)*

#### CONCLUSION

Bitterness imprisons life; love releases it  
Bitterness paralyzes life; love empowers it  
Bitterness sours life; love sweetens it  
Bitterness sickens life; love heals it  
Bitterness blinds life; love anoints its eyes.

