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PASTORAL INSPIRATION FOR BIBLE STUDY

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The Principle of Preservation is born out of the Gospel of Redemption expressed through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Principle of Preservation involves God's forgiveness of believers as an expression of His unconditional Love by the power of His unmerited Grace.

The Unconditional Love of God is the motive behind the forgiveness of sins.

The Revelation of this Truth is found in 1 John 4:9-10, which says, *"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

Our Responsibility to the Revelation of this Truth is found in 1 John 4: 11 which says, *"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

The Unmerited Grace of God navigates the universal Mission of the forgiveness of sins.

The Revelation of this Truth is found in Ephesians 1:7, which says, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His Grace which He lavished on us."*

Our Responsibility to the Revelation of this Truth is found in Ephesians 4:32, which says, *"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*

It is only when our response to the revelation of Truth regarding the Principle of Preservation is rightly clarified that we demonstrate the Spirit-inspired and intentional definitions of **“The Sanctified Life of believers expressed through Prayer”** taught by our Lord. (Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:9-15)

As we continue the path before us, laced with principles birthed out of the Principle of Preservation, we should now be fully persuaded of its innumerable Implications resulting in the invaluable impact in and through our lives.

To be certain, the Principle of Preservation is permanently perfected in the purity of Jesus’s shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“According to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*

Through the Joy of our experiential knowledge of this Truth, coupled with the reinforcements expressed through reassurances, we can boldly declare that we are forever forgiven for sins committed in the past, present, and future. This becomes the permanent premise of our resolve to be as forgiving as we are being forgiven. Colossians 2:13-14 reads, *“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”* With this Truth in mind, we can rejoice in the reality that this eternal forgiveness secures our position in Christ while our daily confession sustains our fellowship with our Heavenly Father! 1 John 1:9 says, *“If we confess our sins, He is Faithful and Righteous to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

In Christ, all our sins have been forgiven, giving us the incentive to be forgiving. This glorious Gospel is heralded by the psalmist as a prophetic proclamation of preemptive praise in Psalm 32:1-2, which says, *“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.”*

The incentives in these verses comprise the blessing of the believer’s Release from Sin (forgiven) and the blessing of the Lord’s eternal Resolve not to reckon the believer’s sins, thereby concluding their standing with Him. (does not impute iniquity)

Therefore, the teaching of Jesus in **Matthew 6:12** should not be viewed as a demanding burden to *“forgive those who have trespassed against us”* but a delightful blessing affirming what we have received as the expression of God’s immutable Love and irrevocable Grace. His Love and Grace, expressed through forgiveness, is extended to us so that we might exercise it towards all those in need of what we have received and will never lose.

From your lane of life, would you agree that the above highlights the meaning of the Principle of Preservation born out of the Gospel of Redemption? (Please explain why you agree or disagree.)

In reality, forgiving others becomes the blessing of giving that exceeds our capacity to receive, confirming the words of Jesus expressed in **Acts 20:35** which says, *“In everything I have shown you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* in that, we are giving to others out of an inexhaustible well of Love and Grace that originates from God, empowered by God through us.

Forgiving is Giving at the highest level of our redeemed humanity for the sake of others who have taken from us through the impact of injuries and insults weaponized against us in unjustifiable and undeniable ways. The degree of forgiveness, by human standards, takes into account the disrespectful, discouraging, damaging, and destructive intentions of those who have sinned against us. To clarify the degree to which we are willing to extend forgiveness to others, let me say that on human standards alone, we tend to forgive with limitations that are based on certain conditions that are not always specified, let alone verbalized. Such is what makes it so difficult to nearly impossible to justify forgiving those who have committed trespasses against us.

From your lane of life, what standards do you measure the degree to which you are willing to forgive those who have committed sins against you?

According to the teachings of Jesus, forgiveness is commanded of us to extend without limitations or conditions, **NOT** treating those who have trespassed against us as prisoners on parole.

Nothing less than a full pardon is required that resolves no possibility of keeping a record or retaliating against those who have committed trespasses against us.

With the above in mind, we have been taught over the last several weeks that forgiveness does not rely on human effort but on the Power of the One who commands us to forgive. It is important to remember that the One who commands us to forgive is the One who forgives us. Furthermore, He is also the One who empowers us to forgive. Therefore, He does not expect from us what He has not empowered and enables us to do. We have learned that God empowers believers to forgive through the Fruit of the Spirit.

We have previously considered Love as the leading grace and Joy that directs seven other graces that empower the Life of Christ in and through the unique lanes of our living.

From your lane of life, how does God empower and enable you to forgive those who have committed trespasses against you through LOVE?

From your lane of life, how does God empower and enable you to forgive those who have committed trespasses against you through JOY?

I conclude these notes with a reminder for inspiration: **The Principle of Preservation** assures us that we are forever forgiven through the Love of God, secured by His Grace, and rooted in the finished work of Jesus Christ. This revelation not only defines our standing with God but directs our responsibility to reflect His forgiveness toward others.

As previously observed, forgiveness is **NOT** the product of human effort, but the evidence of divine empowerment through the Fruit of the Spirit. **Love** leads, and **Joy** sustains our obedience.

Yet, as we progress in our pursuit of the Sanctified Life of believers expressed through Prayer, we will consider the third grace that stabilizes the heart, governing our responses when the offensive attitudes, acts, and verbal abrasions of others become launched attacks against us.

With a constant view on **Love** and liberating **Joy**, we are now perfectly positioned to consider **Peace** as the third grace that guards our hearts, calms our spirits, and empowers us to forgive with a certain assurance that God is in control.