



The Landmine of Unforgiveness

By Dr. Charles Stanley

[Ephesians 4:26-32](#)

What is your first response when someone hurts you? Maybe you want to retaliate. Or perhaps your *outward* attitude doesn't change, but *inside* you are quietly nursing a dark bitterness and resentment. These reactions strike us as understandable and perfectly natural, don't they?

In reality, however, unforgiveness is one of the most destructive behaviors possible. Impacting every prayer, every relationship, and practically every thought you have, it is a land mine with the potential to completely destroy your life.

Scripture is clear that we are to openly and willingly forgive anyone who causes us harm. Why? The reason is that we ourselves have been forgiven. The grace that God pours out on each of us should be our motivation and example. If we have received God's loving pardon, then we simply must do the same for others, even when it seems difficult or unfair.

What is forgiveness? Simply put, it is the act of giving up resentment toward someone, along with the desire to retaliate. In other words, we must surrender three things: the general feeling of resentment, the specific feelings toward a particular individual, and all claims to retribution.

Forgiveness is far more than a simple "I forgive you" statement. It involves a total change of action and an attitude that declares, "Though you wronged me, I love and forgive you. I wish you the best and will help you however I can." Can you make this statement after being hurt? Pray for those who wrong you, and

release your resentment. *As Appeared in the September 12, 2008 Daily Devotional Newsletter*

In Touch Ministries with Dr. Charles Stanley - www.intouch.org Crosswalk Ministries www.crosswalk.com



FIREPROOF: Opening September 26!

At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. Is it too late to fireproof his marriage? His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is about to face his toughest job ever ... rescuing his wife's heart.

On September 26, the next movie from Sherwood Pictures and Provident Films arrives in theaters across the nation: **FIREPROOF**. This action-packed love story has pre-release audiences laughing, crying, and on the edges of their seats as they are drawn into the world of a firefighter, his wife ... and a marriage worth rescuing.

[FIREPROOF opens in theaters nationwide on September 26](#)

The Example of Nehemiah



September 15, 2008

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

--Proverbs 3:5-6

Do you think of yourself as a leader? If you think you could never lead anyone, let me remind you about Nehemiah in the Old Testament.

Nehemiah was one of the great leaders of the Bible. Yet he wasn't a prophet. He wasn't a priest. He wasn't even a preacher! Nehemiah described himself as a cupbearer to the king. He was just a guy who worked hard and had risen to some prominence in his day and time. Nehemiah was just a man, but he was a man who God raised up!

There were some steps Nehemiah took that insured his success, steps that made him a very effective leader. They're the same steps you can take as a follower of Christ to ensure you're an effective leader in your sphere of influence as well.

Step number one is to pray fervently. We see this trait over and over again in the life of Nehemiah. He was a man of prayer. Real leaders understand that opportunity swings on the hinges of prayer.

Step number two is to proceed confidently and courageously. You accomplish this by living what today's verse says: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Step number three to being an effective leader is to plan wisely. Too often we have an idea or dream and we just blindly go for it rather than taking time to plan. But there's a beautiful balance here. There's the divine side of praying and then there's the human side of planning. There is agonizing and then there is organizing.

This is why Nehemiah was such a great leader. Because he not only prayed, he proceeded with confidence and trust in the Lord. And he not only proceeded with confidence and trust in the Lord, he planned effectively.

These same steps, when applied to your life as a Christian, will help you become the effective leader God intends for you to be.

WHAT STEP DO YOU NEED TO TAKE TODAY TO BECOME THE LEADER GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO BE?

This devotional appeared in the September 15, 2008 Newsletter published by Crosswalk.com. Powerpoint Ministries with Dr. Jack Graham - PowerPoint® Ministries is the radio and television broadcast ministry of Dr. Jack Graham in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Graham is the pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, one of the nation's largest, most dynamic congregations. www.jackgraham.org

News from the District Disciplemaking Ministries Office

POWERTIME CAMP saw another wonderful movement of God's Spirit. Twenty-one campers prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior through the ministry of Jon Thomas, Rev. Brian Schmidt, Our Missionary and the support staff. Thirty-eight more responded to the Lord's call on their lives to follow him into some type of full time service. Almost all of the campers responded positively to the challenge to live a holy life before the Lord. It was a powerful time of spiritual growth for these young people

QUIZZING MINISTRY has grown to over 100 quizzers and was strong enough to send two teams this year. We are very proud of the hard work of all the district kids that participated and all the great support their parents and sponsors put in to make this possible. Each quizzer in the program is a winner because they have memorized and learned so much of God's Word.

OUR DISTRICT TEAM

- * Andy Hunt Westside Chapel , Greensboro, NC
 - * Ben Bowers Campus Community Church, Toccoa, GA
 - * Chinua Shaw Lilburn Alliance Church, Lilburn, GA
 - * Derek Eidum Northridge Church, Raleigh, NC
 - * Emily Hood First Alliance Church, Augusta, GA
 - * Greg Miller 1st Alliance, Lexington, NC
 - * Hmellisa Mlo Westside Chapel, Greensboro, NC
 - * Rachel Payton Lilburn Alliance Church, Lilburn, GA
 - * Sheldon Juncker First Alliance Church, Toccoa, GA
 - * Suyash Raiborde Pelham Road Alliance Church, Greenville, SC
- Paul and Amy Moyer (coaches)
Andrew and Lindsey Goss (coaches)

SAD Team #2 took 5th place and Team #1 took 18th place.
Congratulations students!



- Wolf Ridge and Cataloochee Ski Resorts
- Ridgecrest Conference Center
- Asheville's Fun Depot



DISTRICT PRAYER REQUESTS

Alaina (Towns) King

Alaina was released from the hospital (Anderson, not Toccoa as originally reported) on Sunday. While it is still unsure what happened it appears that an antibiotic crystal got into her main artery line, which caused the trauma. She is experiencing some stroke-like symptoms, but it is not clear if she actually suffered one.

Reggie Screen

Reggie is the pastor at New Beginnings Fellowship in Duluth. His mother, Mildred, is very ill with double pneumonia. She is on 100% oxygen. Reggie asks that we pray that her lungs will not collapse, but will clear and respond to treatment, her blood pressure to remain normal, and her oxygenation level to come into complete balance. Also, that her diabetes will be healed and she will experience complete healing from the pneumonia.

Steve Reibsome

Steve Reibsome, TFC Director of Chapel Ministries, underwent liver transplant surgery on Thursday of this past week. On Saturday morning he was sitting up and progressing well, and the liver was functioning very well. We praise the Lord for this good report.

Speaker: Rev. Dale Patrick, Lilburn, Georgia
Place: Myrtle Beach Christian Center
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Dates: October 17—October 19, 2008
Cost: \$95.00



Alliance Workers Respond to Ike Victims

[Fri, 19 Sep 2008 14:45:59 -0600]

One week after Hurricane Ike ravaged the Texas and Louisiana coastlines, Alliance first responders have visited several C&MA churches. Southwestern District superintendent Mark Searing commissioned Chaplain Paul Northcutt, who is a full-time police chaplain and the district's emergency response "go-to guy," and his wife, Blossom, into hurricane affected areas with Alliance churches.



At Alliance Bible Church in Baytown, the Northcutts found Pastor Jim Black and members of the church cleaning and making repairs. "We gave them cases of water and energy drinks as well as some snacks and canned fruit for themselves and for distribution in the area," said Northcutt. "Some of these supplies were taken immediately to several church families and others in the community. We also gave the pastor a supply of \$25 Wal-Mart Gift cards for him to pass out as needed in the community."

Having an emergency service vehicle enabled the Northcutts to access Galveston, which is restricted to most people. They ministered to police officers and National Guard soldiers, passing out gospel tracts and praying with some of the officers and generally just trying to encourage them. "We found that they already had lots of resources in place; currently, there is very little that volunteers can do as far as helping with clean-up and rebuilding in Galveston."

After finding that local and federal officials were on the scene in Beaumont, the Northcutts drove to Dayton and Liberty, two communities that were hard hit but had yet to receive any aid. "We met with police chief Pete Douzat in Dayton, who was very glad to see us," Northcutt said. "After having prayer with the chief and other city employees, we left a large supply of water, energy drinks, and snacks at the fire department. Our visit there should be a good contact for future development of a possible C&MA church in that area."

In Liberty the Northcutts ministered to many city employees, giving them the remaining supplies, Bibles, and other Christian literature and were invited to share a barbeque meal that the officers had prepared. "It was great," Northcutt said. "After handshakes, hugs, and prayers we left this wonderful town—hopefully, they were more encouraged than they were when we arrived."

Paul and Blossom Northcutt returned home for some rest and to restock supplies to distribute where there is need. The Alliance news team will provide regular updates. *Volunteers are needed to cut numerous uprooted trees and to help with clean-up in many areas. To contribute to rebuilding efforts of C&MA churches or to find out how to volunteer, contact Mark Searing at (817) 561-0879, or e-mail swdcmaseservices@swdcma.org.*

God Took Away My Fear!

By Mike and Sue Farho
CMA Missionaries to Cote d'Ivoire

On Aug. 7, 2001, a number of our friends experienced a living nightmare. God supernaturally saved us from being caught in the maelstrom of that evil day. I don't want to open the wounds that so many experienced that day. I need to share one friend's healing after that frightening day. Last week, she shared that the fear was so overwhelming that she couldn't sleep for days. Then she cried out to God to take away her fear. Immediately, a wonderful feeling of peace came over her. I can honestly tell you that she is now one of the most courageous people I know.

Heavenly Father, thank You for healing those who were so terribly wounded that day 7 years ago. Make this anniversary of that event one of increasing peace and comfort for all. Protect Your servants who serve You in areas of intense spiritual warfare. Deliver them from the evil one and his schemes to destroy them.

Grateful for your partnership in prayer,
Mike and Sue Farho
<http://www.farho.net/cc2008>