

# GIVE / FORGIVE / RECEIVE

Preached by Pastor Randy Solomon at Westchester Chapel Church of the Nazarene, August 25, 2013, as a part of the “Living THE Life: Choices” sermon series

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**Mathew 7: 7-12 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup>“Ask and it will be **given** to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks **receives**; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup>“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will **give** him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will **give** him a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you, then, though you are evil, know how to **give** good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give** good gifts to those who ask him! <sup>12</sup>**So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

**What does this passage mean? Read verses 7-11**

**Give** I learned a lot from that man. That man was always giving, and he didn't want anyone to know. That was the most important thing to me --that he did not want anyone to know. That man to me ...was one of the best. -----It was said of that man that if two people knew of his kind act that was too many in his book. **Mariano Riveria on George**

**Steinbrenner**

- Give out of a motivation of love
  - a. Not out of self motive
  - b. Public praise
  - c. Give like Jesus – no strings attached
  
- Give fully to one another – like ACTS
  - a. Out of the depth of your being
  - b. Fully share one's inner most thoughts with one another.
  - c. Share concerns and prayer concerns
  - d. Listen
  - e. In giving, there is acceptance of one another
  - f. Jesus fully committed himself to his disciples and shared his thoughts and self with the world.
  - g. He gave his time
  - h. He gave his presence with the disciples
  - i. He ate and shared the day to day aspects of life with his disciples
  - j. He shared His power in healing communities
  - k. He did not hold back anything
  - l. He told them that he would be rejected and crucified
  - m. He gave of his life for the world
  - n. We should give Jesus to others ---- think of the gift that keeps on giving.

EXAMPLE – MY MISER SELF

- As a kid, I would receive but not give. Everything I made as a kid for delivering papers I put in the bank and held. I saved because I liked having money in the bank

instead of spending or giving. My family called me a tight wad and I was famous for forgetting my wallet to spend at family functions.

Example – My Father-in-Law: a Full Giver

- ☒ My father in law showed me how to give. Even though he worked two jobs and struggled to meet his financial commitments. He did not hold back when he hosted the holidays (Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the fourth of July) at his house. He brought the best food and put a tremendous effort to make everyone's time special. Friends and family made it their traditional Holiday celebration at their home for many years.

## For - Give

### Corrie Ten Boom Story on Forgiving

Story retold by Inge Danaher as recounted by Corrie Ten Boom in her book, *The Hiding Place*  
Inge Danaher, Melbourne, Australia, July 2007

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“It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former SS man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie’s pain-blانched face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. “How grateful I am for your message Fräulein”, he said “To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!” His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him. I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity.

“And I stood there—I whose sins had again and again to be forgiven—and could not forgive. Betsie had died in that place—could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

“It could not have been many seconds that he stood there—hand held out—but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

“For I had to do it—I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us. ‘If you do not forgive men their trespasses,’ Jesus says, ‘neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.’

“I knew it not only as a commandment of God, but as a daily experience. Since the end of the war I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality. Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that.

“And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion—I knew that too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the

temperature of the heart. ‘... Help!’ I prayed silently. ‘I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling.’

“And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

“ ‘I forgive you, brother!’ I cried. ‘With all my heart!’

“For a long moment we grasped each other’s hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God’s love so intensely, as I did then”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Action – Forgive

Remember previous sermon on **Judging Others**

7 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

- a. Forgive yourself – Jesus has forgiven your sins if you **receive** that forgiveness so it is important not to beat yourself up.
- b. Forgive others. Easy to say but hard to do but God can **give** you the power to do it through His Holy Spirit.
- c. Unforgiveness hardens the soul and prevents one from giving out of love. Unforgiveness gives a foothold for the enemy to work in your soul and mind: bitterness, complaining, gossip, pain and hurt. You do not want to give out of bitterness and unforgiveness.
- d. Forgiveness helps one to give in the right way from love instead of pain and bitterness.
- e. Forgiving washes the affects of sin in your life and what is done against you. Forgiving is like taking a bath and cleaning oneself from sin and its affects.

## Receive

- Receive the Holy Spirit – His Power and love
- Receive Jesus’ act of love – Receive God’s gift to you
- One needs to receive from God so that they will be filled up. This will enable one to give generously again.
- Receive God’s power to cleanse oneself from sin and all its effects
- Receive His power to forgive
- Receive His Word to transform the mind and heart and soul. Study the Bible and God’s Word is the most valuable investment of time.
- Receive love gifts from others. Lets giver be blessed by allowing other to give out of their gifts (art, help, encouragement, etc)

**Paraphrase in Don Piper’s book on allowing others to give– “90 Minutes in Heaven”**

Don Piper was in recovery for several weeks and several friends and members of his church would come and visit him and ask him if he needed anything. "He would always answer, no thank you. I appreciate it but I am fine." A retired minister friend observed this behavior and confronted Don and told him that he was not doing a good job. Don was taking away their special gift of allowing them to give out of love. He needed to receive their love to continue the healing.

ALL THREE WORDS (**GIVE, FORGIVE, AND RECEIVE**) ARE TIED TOGETHER.

1. YOU CANNOT GIVE IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE.
2. YOU CANNOT GIVE THE RIGHT WAY IF YOU CANNOT FORGIVE.
3. RECEIVING ALLOWS OTHERS TO GIVE AND HELPS REPLENISH YOUR SOUL SO THAT YOU CAN GIVE AGAIN.

These are my thoughts on the golden rule to do onto others what they would do for you. Please pray and mediate on these simple but profound word actions. God's Holy Spirit will continue to speak to you and transform you with His sermon and message.

In Humbleness,  
Rev. Randy Solomon

## **Corrie ten Boom and Forgiveness**

In 1939 Corrie ten Boom was 47 years old and lived with her widowed 82 year old father and elder sister Betsie in Haarlem, in The Netherlands. Neither sister had ever married. Her father had a little watchmakers shop. It was the year the war came to Holland and with it much evil. The night the first bombs fell, Corrie had a dream. About a strange old farm wagon pulled by black horses across the city square. In it she saw herself, her father and Betsie amongst friends and other family members many of whom she recognised. They couldn't get off the wagon as it slowly was dragged across the square. But they didn't want to go and the wagon was taking them far far away...that dream proved to be prophetic. It took 5 days until Holland surrendered. Initially business boomed but the streetscape changed as more and more German soldiers arrived and life became more and more controlled and frightening. A year into the invasion attacks on Jews became frequent. And the Ten Booms had friends and employees that were Jewish. Corrie's brother was the first to work with the Underground. People began to vanish. The first family member to be arrested was her nephew Peter. For defiantly playing the forbidden Dutch national anthem. Slowly the family began helping Jewish people to escape. They created a hideout in their own home. In early 1944 the inevitable happened. Corrie, Betsie their father (now 87), their brother Willem and his wife, their sister Nollie and her husband, her nephew Peter and many others were arrested and transported by bus out of Haarlem and to the Hague. Bringing to pass Corrie's dream. From there by army truck to Scheveningen. Within 10 days of the arrest her father died. Later they were taken by train to a concentration camp in the Dutch

town of Vught. And several months later, in September 1944 by train to Ravensbruck. And this is where my story begins. I will leave to your imagination the atrocities that Corrie and her sister suffered. I want to tell you a story. A story that touched my heart so much that it cleansed me of feelings I had harboured for years. On arrival at Ravensbruck the women were marched to the processing centre for new arrivals. Here they had to pile all of their belongings in the centre of the room and then strip naked and also add their clothes to the pile. Naked they had to walk under bright lights and past the scrutiny of a dozen guards towards the shower room. Using her ingenuity Corrie managed to take her sister into the shower room before undressing and in this way she managed to hide her Bible, a bottle of vitamin pills inside a sweater which later her sister would wear. By this stage Betsie was emaciated and quite ill. The Bible became Corrie's only comfort and daily she would read from it to herself and to the other women. Thus in that evil hell hole, Corrie's faith blossomed. And all the time she watched her sister get sicker and die an agonising death but never once wavering in her faith. And then a miracle occurred. One day... for apparently no reason... Corrie was taken aside and given a card that said the one word RELEASED. At first it seemed someone had played a horrible joke on her because to be released she had to be declared "healthy" and she was suffering from edema. But in a few days the swelling went down and amazing wonder she was released out of that death-trap. It was New Years day in 1945.

And Corrie's life as an evangelist began shortly after the war ended. She travelled all over the place talking about God's love. And about forgiveness. And here are Corrie's own words as she relates the experience which touched me so ...many many years later, when I read this story in Melbourne Australia. I was born in Germany and although my family migrated to Australia when I was only 11 years old, I carried with me for over 40 years of my life feelings of guilt and shame and a terrible hatred for Hitler and everything Nazi. Until I read Corrie's story (above).

"It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former SS man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's painblanched face.

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Corrie Ten Boom spent much of her life helping people in Holland and Germany after the war. As well as teaching about love and forgiveness she became the Director of a Relief Organisation. To complete my story I would also like to share with you the following. I was born in Germany in 1950, after the war and all its atrocities were well and truly over. But I was not spared the feelings of shame and humiliation that were experienced by many of my countrymen. When I was 11 years old my family migrated to Australia. As I grew up and learnt about the war and what happened I was filled with hatred and anger against the Nazis. For the humiliation and suffering of their victims but also for the stigma and pain they inflicted on the entire German race. These feelings were always there ready to burst out at the slightest provocation. One day someone told me about Corrie Ten Boom and I got hold of a copy of “the Hiding Place” and read it. I was so touched by the way she had handled herself both during and after her ordeal and that of her family that I was suddenly cleansed of this terrible feeling. It was as if her experience of love and forgiveness reached out to me too and I realised that if Corrie, who had SO MUCH to forgive, could find it in her heart to forgive even her captors, then I too must forgive. And this is the experience that cleansed me of all that hatred and anger. Often I thought about this and shared my story with people. Then a few week’s ago I wrote a series of poems on “forgiveness”. The first was forgiving those people who hurt you. The 2nd was forgiving those who hurt others, a poem I could only write because of my experience in reading Corrie’s book. My 3rd poem is about forgiving yourself. These poems can also be found on the humiliationstudies website:  
<http://www.humiliationstudies.org/intervention/peacelinguistics.php#danaher>  
I urge you to read her book “the hiding place” to hear her full story. Find out more by visiting the Corrie ten Boom website: [www.CorrieTenBoom.com](http://www.CorrieTenBoom.com) .