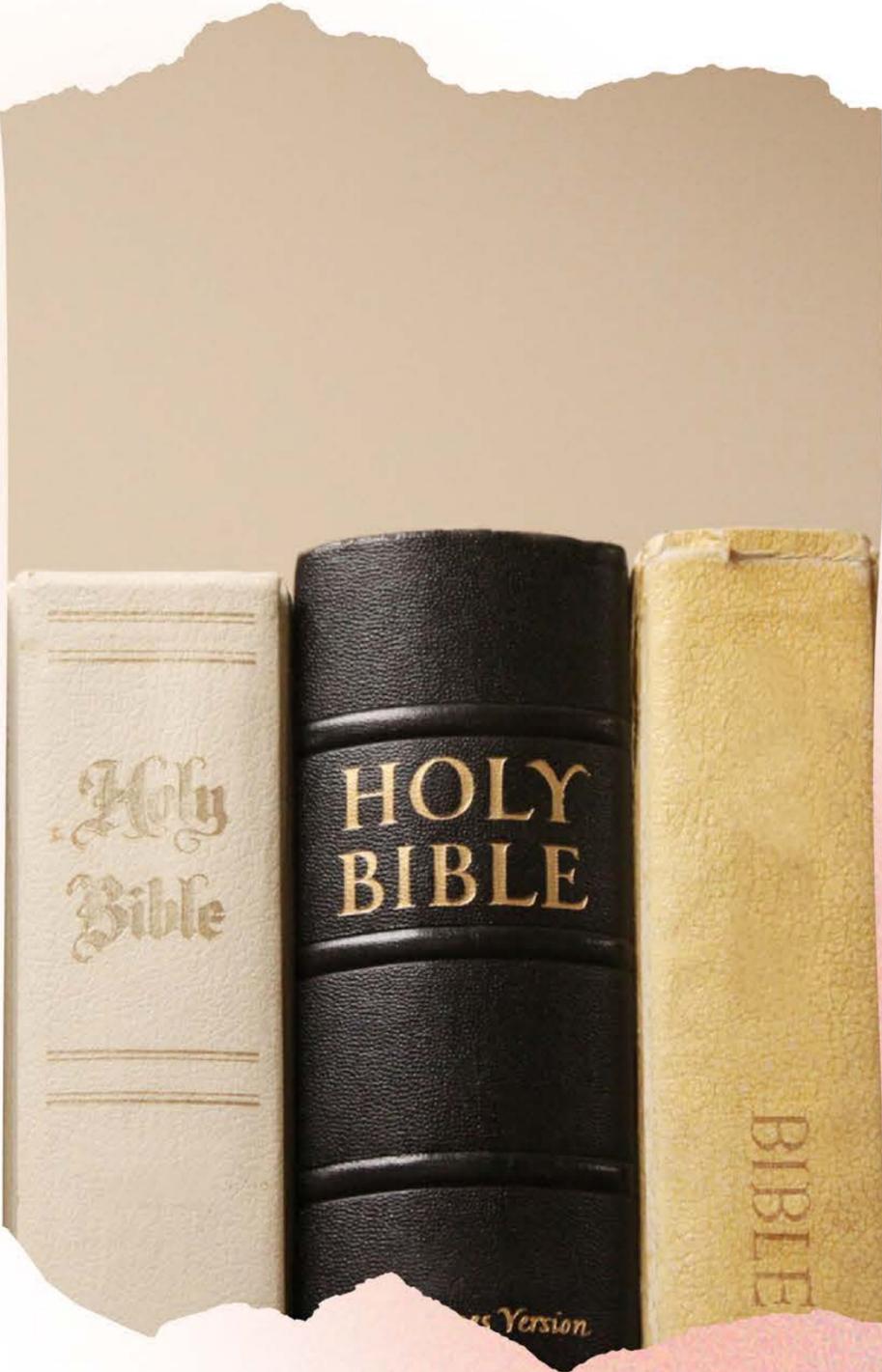


March Life in the Word Series:
'From Such Turn Away'

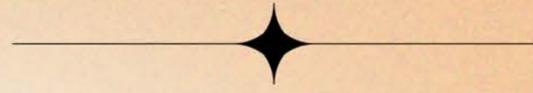
Lesson 10:

**The Prison Of
Unforgiveness**

Foundation Scripture: II Timothy 3:1-5



But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!



Lesson 10:
The Prison Of Unforgiveness

The Parable of an Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35



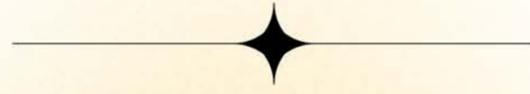
Matthew 18:21-35



But when that servant went away, he found a servant who owed him hundreds of dollars. He grabbed the servant he found and began to choke him. 'Pay what you owe!' he said. Then that other servant fell at his feet and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will repay you. But he refused. Instead, he turned away and had that servant put into prison until he could repay what he owed.'



The other servants who worked with him saw what had happened and felt very sad. They told their master the whole story. Then his master sent for him and said to him, ‘You evil servant! I canceled your entire debt because you begged me. Shouldn’t you have treated the other servant as mercifully as I treated you?’



His master was so angry that he handed him over to the torturers until he could repay everything that he owed. That is what my Father in heaven will do to you if each of you does not sincerely forgive other believers.”



**What is
Unforgiveness?**

UNFORGIVENESS is a state of emotional and mental distress that results from a delayed response in forgiving an offender.



“All disease comes from a state of unforgiveness.”

Four Negatives of Unforgiveness:



1. **UNFORGIVENESS** will
imprison you in your past.

**"To forgive is to set a
prisoner free and discover
that the prisoner was you."**

2. **UNFORGIVENESS** will
produce bitterness.

Jeremiah 17:9



The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

3. **UNFORGIVENESS** will give
Satan an open door.

Ephesians 4:26-27



Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

II Corinthians 2:10-11



But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

4. **UNFORGIVENESS** will hinder your fellowship with God.

Mark 11:25-26



And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Five Blessings of Forgiveness:



1. **FORGIVENESS** allows mercy over our lives.

Matthew 5:7

2. **FORGIVENESS** brings true
peace.

II Corinthians 13:11

3. **FORGIVENESS** attracts
more blessings from God.

4. **FORGIVENESS** makes us more aware of our sins.

Colossians 2:13

5. **FORGIVENESS** repels the
sin of pride.

Genesis 45:5

**Forgiveness is the key
that unlocks the door to
the prison within your soul.**

TURN THE KEY!

**Your FREEDOM is
within you!**

“Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.”

Follow Up Chat Questions:

1. What is your definition of unforgiveness?
2. Our culture pushes us to be unforgiving. How so?
3. List the four negatives of unforgiveness. Explain.
4. List the five blessings of forgiveness mentioned in today's lesson.
5. How does forgiveness unlock the door of the prison with us?
6. How does forgiveness expand our future?
7. How can you apply this lesson to your spiritual walk?