

Forgiveness Tool of Praying Blessings on the Offender

Free Yourself to
Love: Chapter 9

ICON KEY

 Question/Discuss

 Read The Bible

 Read FYTL

 Watch the Video



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Excuses that once bound us become the very material for tools that liberate us. p.161



“I am sorry.” Waiting for these words can keep a person in prison. p. 162



So many people stuck in unforgiveness—waiting for “three words.” p. 163



Jesus forgave His offenders who had not remotely acknowledged their need to say ‘I’m sorry.’ p. 164



Luke 23:34



When we refuse to forgive, we are simply giving in to the temptation of unforgiveness and vengeance. p. 165



Before reading this chapter, had you decided that you couldn’t forgive until you heard “I am sorry?” Have you changed your mind?



“[Jesus] was aware that forgiving his enemies was a proactive defense against any temptation to become embittered toward them. . . . We’re watching a Savior who is protecting Himself against the temptation of hatred and



resentment.” Do you think that’s why Jesus forgave the Roman soldiers? Why or why not?

 Gordon MacDonald’s quote on Jesus resisting temptation on the cross. p. 165

 Forgiveness tool of praying blessings on offender: Jesus displays on cross. p. 165

 Job demonstrated this tool of praying blessings on offenders. p. 166

 Job 42:7, 8

 Praying blessings on one’s offender fortifies my choice to forgive. pp. 166, 167

 Empowerment of forgiving: utterly characteristic of our Lord is to ask the victim to stand in the most powerful place of forgiveness when he offers a prayer on behalf of the offender. The victim actually becomes the vessel of forgiveness. p.168

 Job 42:8, 9

[Q] *Read Job 42:7–10. Have you ever prayed blessings on your offender(s)? If so, what happened?*

[Q] *“What was done to us will be healed by what was done for us.” What does this statement mean to you?*

 “The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong.” p.168.

 How do you know what to pray for the offender? pp. 169-170

[Q] *Are you offended by the suggestion of praying a blessing on your offender?*



🔗 Bonus Gift for the Aggressive Forgiver—embedded bonus. pp. 171,172



Job 42:10, 12

🔗 Irony: We are blessed most when we release a blessing on our offender.
p. 173

🔗 We can actually risk blocking blessings on my own life. p. 173



I Pet. 3:9

[Q] *Read Job 42:10 and describe the embedded blessing within the forgiveness tool of praying blessings on one's offender(s). Is this a new concept for you? Have you ever seen it happen?*

🔗 Your body language is a “sandwich sign” of your unforgiving heart.
p. 174, 175

[Q] *Were you surprised by the fact that your body and your silence are sure displays of your heart's condition of unforgiveness? Have you ever noticed resentment in someone else's countenance?*

🔗 Praying blessings on annoying people, illus. of Mother Teresa. p. 177

[Q] *Examine Proverbs 25:21–22 and list the blessings we can hinder when we don't forgive.*

🔗 Paul's glorious example of forgiveness. p. 179



I Cor. 4:12,13 NLT

🔗 Forgiveness tool of praying blessings on offender is not a magic incantation. p. 181

