

Ephesians 4:30-31 – “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God... And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Jonathan Goforth was used by God to bring revival to Manchuria. He was a man who exemplified II Chronicles 7:14. Before revival began, God reminded him of a tension between him and another missionary. Goforth thought he was in the right, but the Holy Spirit troubled him about it. He protested that the other missionary had already come to him in tears, confessing his fault and asking forgiveness. Then God reminded him that love had not been restored between the two of them. Goforth realized God was telling him that unless he made things right, he could not expect God’s blessing on his ministry. While preaching a message, the Lord convicted Goforth, so he promised the Lord as soon as the meeting was over, he would go to his missionary brother. Instantly the whole atmosphere of the meeting changed. At the close, person after person rose to pray, many of them weeping. In twenty years, he had not seen such brokenness. At each place after that, wherever Jonathan Goforth preached, the Holy Spirit convicted people, and wrongs were made right by restitution. In place after place people broke down and wept as they confessed their sins. Within the next year there were phenomenal victories as revival continued. The Holy Spirit is grieved when Christians won’t forgive. We are never more unlike Jesus than when we hold grudges. An unwillingness to forgive short-circuits the Spirit’s power, forfeits the Father’s blessings, and hinders Christ’s work in the church. A person is never in more need of forgiveness than when he or she refuses to forgive. Wherever two or three are together Christ, by His Spirit, is there. When saints are divided by bitterness and unforgiveness, the Spirit is not. Many Christians believe the Bible, except what it says on forgiveness. They take the Bible literally, but not seriously. If we as saints would pay attention to the Holy Spirit when He speaks to us on forgiving, revival would break out in an instant. No matter how hard we pray, it won’t make any difference if we refuse to forgive or ask forgiveness, as if it didn’t matter. Forgiveness was important enough to God that He gave His Son, so He could forgive us. If God was willing to do that for us, we should be willing to forgive others.

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