



Elijah House Ministries Australia

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Issue 6

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Resource Centre Holiday Season Hours



The Resource Centre will close for the holiday season at 4pm on Thursday, 18th December 2009, and open in the New Year at 8am on Monday, 12th January 2009.

***When they saw the star, they rejoiced
with exceeding great joy.***

Matthew 2:10

Prayer Ministry Training Course Change of Format

Beginning in 2009, the format of the Prayer Ministry Training Course will change from the current 52 teachings to 48, similar to Elijah House USA. Though still available for purchase, the teachings that will no longer form part of the course are:

- *Common Errors in Ministry (Level B)*
- *Homosexuality (Level D)*
- *Biblical View of Boundaries (Level C)*
- *Protection of the Prayer Minister (Level D)*

As a result, each level can now be completed in either 4 days or 2 weekends. A complete list of the teachings in each level is available by clicking on *Course Information* under the *Courses* link on our website, www.elijahhouse.com.au.

Dateholder: NSW Approved Training Assessment

The first New South Wales volunteer assessment sessions are being planned, with proposed dates and venues as follows:

Session 1: CCR Centre, Rozelle
Dates: 7th to 9th March 2009

Session 2: Servants of Jesus, Seven Hills (or in this region)
Dates: 17th to 22nd March 2009

Further details will be provided in the new year.



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Question: What's New at Elijah House USA?



Answer:

- Logo
- Blog www.elijahtask.blogspot.com
- YouTube clips www.youtube.com/user/ehbrian

Take a look for yourself!

"For in Him you have been **enriched in every way
—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge."** 1 Corinthians 1:5

The true gift of Christmas is forgiveness – because this is what the One whom Christmas is all about gave us! Perhaps this is a good time to look again at the below Enrichment from Level A of the Prayer Ministry Training Course.

E n r i c h m e n t

Forgiving Our Debtors

Even though we talk frequently about forgiveness, most of us find it hard to define it in a practical way. What does it really mean to forgive? Since doing so is central to the healing process, we should certainly know.

Forgiveness is often defined as letting go of past hurts, or changing one's attitudes toward another.

But how do we do that? How do we let go?

One day the Lord showed me a definition of forgiveness I had never fully seen before. It comes from the Lord's prayer, Matthew 6:12: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (NIV). When we have unforgiveness in our heart toward another, we are holding that person in debt. Thus, when we truly forgive we proclaim, "I've cancelled your debt. You don't owe me any longer." Many of us give evidence to our unforgiveness without even knowing it when they say, "I deserve an apology." But if they have truly forgiven, even the debt of an apology is removed.

When someone is in debt to us through unforgiveness, our heart records what the person owes. But not only does what is owed get stored in our hearts; so do the hurts and negative messages associated with the debt. These don't go away until the debt is paid in full.

Let me illustrate. A father promises his son he will leave work early to take him to a baseball game. After school the boy excitedly waits by the front door for Dad to show up. Dad never calls. The boy is terribly disappointed, especially as he's told all his friends about the trip.

When Dad comes home, he fails to acknowledge his son's hurt and brushes the subject off. The son feels rejected and the message is written in his heart: "I'm not important." Since this isn't the first time Dad has done something like this, the son is likely to be tempted to build up resentment and unforgiveness toward his father. In his heart, the unforgiveness says, "Dad, owes me to keep his promise and to admit he did wrong to me." Because the son now holds his father in debt to himself, the event, the feelings and the message are stored in his heart, never to go away until there is forgiveness.

Time goes on and this unresolved issue is buried with other similar issues — forgotten but still there. Later in life the son finds himself overreacting when people don't come through on their promises, and experiencing angry rages and depression. Why? Because the feelings and messages are still strongly alive within his heart and tapped into when the circumstances are right.

In those unforgiving areas of our heart we are not only holding someone in debt to us, but we are also unable to receive what we really need in each area: affirmation, love, positive words, comfort — whatever is "owed" us. Rather than receive positive messages, our heart is more likely to receive messages in line with the negative ones written there through unforgiveness. In these areas our heart becomes closed to the Lord and others around us.

Think of it as a closed fist. In unforgiveness, it is as if we are shaking our fist at the one who "owes" us, demanding to receive, yet holding tightly to the very pain we want to be rid of. We are unable to receive the very thing we demand because our hand is not open. When the Lord wants to come and pour His love and healing into our hurt, we are unable to receive the very thing we long for. We can receive only a small portion of His love because through unforgiveness we are still waiting for those who hurt us to pay up, to come through. It is as if we are saying to the Lord, "No, that's OK. I'm waiting for so-and-so. He owes me."

1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." The first words of this verse describe our part. It is our job to confess or admit our sin. The rest describes the Lord's part; His job is to cleanse us of our unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment and hatred. We must simply admit these sins and make a choice to cancel someone's debt through forgiveness. When we do, the Lord will heal us, removing the pain and the negative messages in our hearts.