

Forgive, and Allow God to Restore the Sinner.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fattened calf.’ <sup>28</sup> *“But he was angry and would not go in.”* - Luke 15:25-28.

The servant informed the older son that his brother had returned home safely, and there was much celebration. His father and the entire household was making merry because the son who was once dead in sin was alive, and he who was once lost was found. In short, the young son was forgiven and was restored by his father.

Like the older son, when someone does something to us, we may find it difficult to accept that the sinner has truly repented, and so forgiveness may not be forthcoming, and we may refuse to accept that the Heavenly Father has restored the sinner.

This is a plea for those who may still be angry, like the older son and who may have a difficult time releasing someone from the hurt and pain that the person may have caused you. Forgive the person, and allow God to restore that person so that he can be used for His honour and glory.

I am not doubting that you don’t have the ‘scars’ to show as a result of your suffering at the hands of the sinner. Jesus also had the scars to show from his crucifixion. But while He hung on the cross He said, *“Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* - Luke 23:34.

Similarly, Saul who once persecuted and killed Christians was forgiven and became one of the most powerful champions of the faith in the New Testament. We can never know in what great way God will use a penitent sinner who has truly repented of his sins.

Like the older son, don’t allow anger and non-forgiveness to prevent you from joining the celebration over the repented sinner who has turned from his life of sin, and has returned to house of his Heavenly Father. Luke 15:28 said, <sup>28</sup> *“But he was angry and would not go in.”*

What if God had decided not to forgive us of our sins? Just a thought.

The Bible tells us more about how the spirit of anger can affects us:

*“...anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”*- James 1:20

*“Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.”* – Proverbs 14:29.

<sup>26</sup> *“Be angry, and do not sin”*: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil. - Ephesians 4:26-27

*“Anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires, ”and it can lead us to sin. It is one of the tricks the devil uses that can keep us in a place where we cannot move forward in the things of God. Forgive and release that person, and allow God to restore him or her. Let us pray.*

*Heavenly Father,*

*“I am still hurting and angry over that situation involving (state name). The physical and emotional scars are there and the pain lingers on. Help me, O Lord, by the love of Your Son Jesus, to deal with the hurt and anger. Forgive me of my sin, as I release (state name) from the chains of my non-forgiveness and anger. As You restore (state name), I pray that Your Holy Spirit guides him/her along the path of righteousness, so that he/she may bring honour and glory to Your name and Your Son Jesus Christ. I thank You Lord for the comforting love of Your Son. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”*

**Memory Verse:**

***“...anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”- James 1:20***