

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in the foreground is covered in rubble, including broken stones and wooden planks. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text "REBUILDING the GATES" is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font. "REBUILDING" and "GATES" are in all caps, while "the" is in lowercase and smaller. The text is centered horizontally and spans across the middle of the image.

REBUILDING
the
GATES

The Faces of Opposition

The background image shows a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of large, light-colored stone blocks. The ground in front of the arch is covered in rubble and debris, including broken stones and wooden planks. The overall scene is one of destruction and decay.

1. The enemy becomes concerned (Neh 2:9 - 10)
2. False accusation (Neh 2:19 - 20)
3. Attack on faith and faithfulness (Neh 4:1 - 6)
4. Attack of fear, confusion and discouragement. (Neh 4:6 - 23)
5. Attack from within. (Neh 5)

The Enemy Within The Wall

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey layer containing text.

- As an individual: The flesh, where self is at the center.
- As a body: How we treat one another, forgiveness.
- As a leadership: Selfish ambition and control.

Foundation of Forgiveness

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger stone wall. The ground in front of the arch is covered in rubble and debris, including broken stones and wooden planks. A simple wooden railing is positioned in front of the archway. The overall scene is one of destruction and decay.

The foundation for every form of forgiveness is built upon the forgiveness we have received from God through Jesus Christ shedding His blood on the Cross.

What is Forgiveness

- To grant free pardon for - or remission of - ANY offense or debt, to give up all claim, even a claim of justice.
- Forgiveness is an act of the will, not the emotions.
- Forgiveness is part of God's nature
 - Ex 34:5 - 8, "And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.'"

What is Forgiveness

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- Forgiveness and reconciliation are different.
- Forgiveness and boundaries can co-exist.
- Forgiveness and consequence can happen together.
- Forgiveness and accountability are healthy.

Forgiveness & Spiritual Authority

Matt 18:15 - 20

15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Forgiveness & Spiritual Authority

2 Cor 2:10 - 11

“Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes, in the presence of Christ, lest satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his DEVICES.”

Devices / Schemes:

- mental perception, thought.
- the mind which proposes
- an evil purpose

Forgiveness & Spiritual Authority

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The image is in a muted, sepia tone.

Prov 26:17

“He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own
Is like one who takes a dog by the ears.”

Forgiveness & Spiritual Authority

- AUTHORITY: 'Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.'
- PARTNERSHIP: '... if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.'
- PRESENCE: 'For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.'

Forgiveness & Spiritual Authority

The background image shows a stone building with a large, dark arched doorway. The ground in front of the doorway is covered in a large pile of rubble, including broken stones and debris, suggesting a scene of destruction or ruin. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

The use and impact of the authority which has been delegated to us, is directly linked to the way we treat one another and how we forgive one another.

Choosing what we reproduce

Heb 12:12 - 16

12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

Choosing what we reproduce



Vs 15

lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

‘bitterness’ - *pikria*

‘bitterness’ - *roshe*

Forgiveness affects both parties

Rom 5:6 - 10

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Forgiveness affects both parties

Acts 7:59 - 60

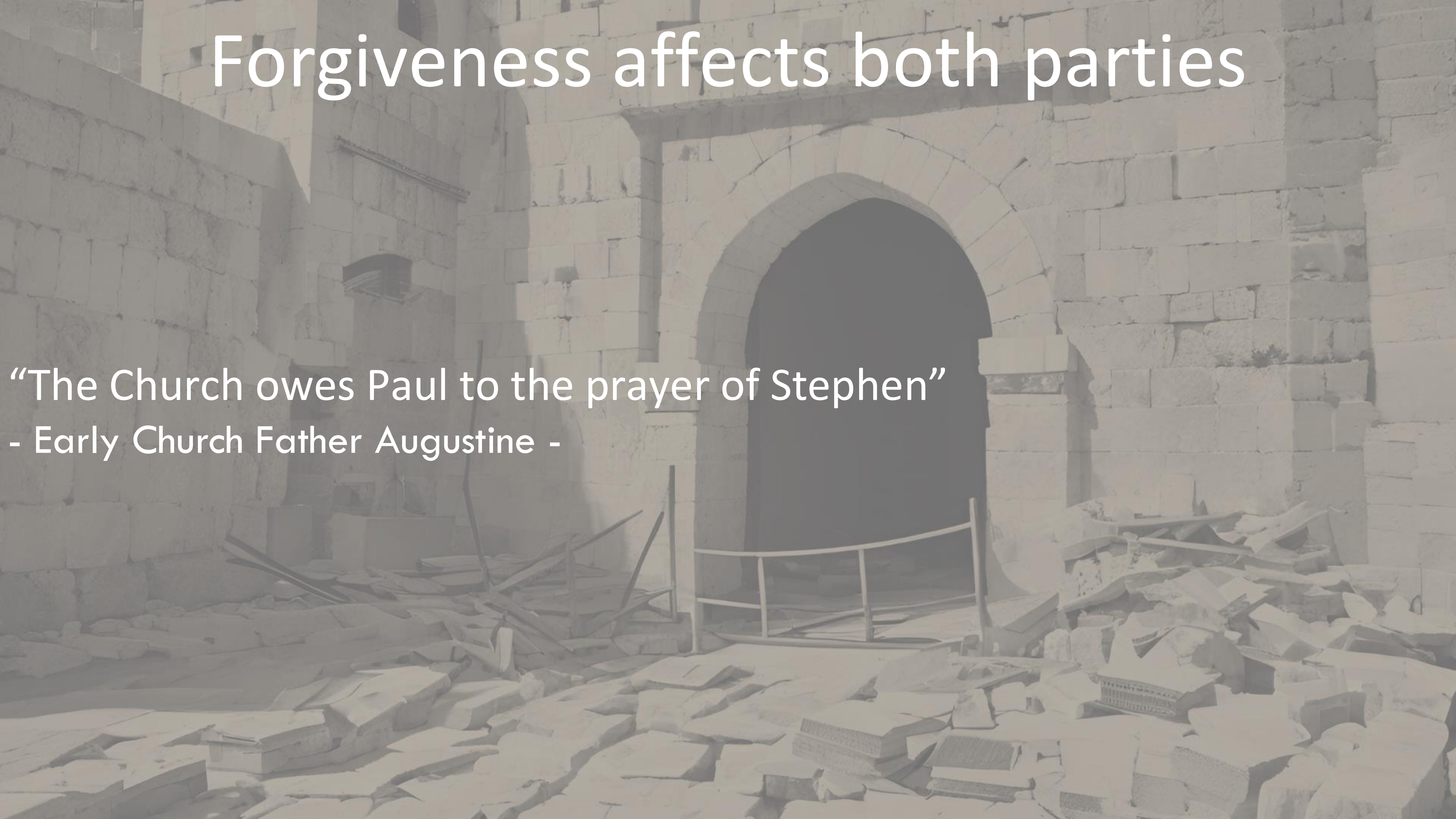
“And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a LOUD voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Forgiveness affects both parties

- Acts 6:1 - 2 - The reason for Stevens appointment, Hellenists.
- Acts 6:9 - 12 - Hellenistic Jews did this (synagogue of the freedmen)
- Acts 7:54 - 8:1 - Saul consenting to His death, he was in authority. **THUS IT WOULD BE HIM WHO WOULD'VE STOOD BEFORE GOD ONE DAY AND ACCOUNT FOR HIS DEATH...**
- Acts 11:19 - 26 - Fruit with the Hellenists, preaching to similar people that arose and killed Stephen, he bore that fruit. This was 8 - 10 years afterwards.

Forgiveness affects both parties

“The Church owes Paul to the prayer of Stephen”
- Early Church Father Augustine -



Forgiveness

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground and a wooden railing in front of the arch. The image is in black and white and has a semi-transparent overlay with text.

“Wherever you find the true work of forgiveness in people’s lives, there we find a growing love and devotion for Jesus Christ.”

- David Wilkerson -

Eva Mozes Kor (1934 - 2019)

Up to the time I forgave, I always reacted to what other people did to me, and in many ways I reacted as a victim. Now, I was originating action, and that is where the feeling of power comes in forgiveness, to realize that we can control how we feel. That was such a release of pressure; of anger; to me, it was a very interesting result for giving a gift to the Nazi = because I got the biggest gift, freedom and power.

There is no absolutely no doubt in my mind that every suffering human being can heal themselves through forgiveness.

How do I fit into this mixed up world and walk through this world, in my life, and accomplish the things that I need to, that I desire to, that I'm called to?

Remember, there is always hope after despair, there is always tomorrow after disaster... but you will not walk forward after despair, and you will not move past disaster without forgiveness. It will trap you in that despair and in that disaster, until you forgive!

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