

LISTENING TO GOD TO BE TAUGHT, CONVICTED, CORRECTED, AND TRAINED IN "PUTTING OFF" BITTERNESS

Survey the Scriptures

Read through the Scriptures listed below over the next seven days. Consider the following questions as you read:

- What is God teaching me that is related to bitterness from this passage?
- What can I learn from the passage for my life and situation? (What is God teaching me from what He is saying in this passage?)
- Does the passage prove a case against me with convincing evidence? Of what does the passage prove me guilty? (How is God convicting me from what He is saying in this passage?)
- What does the passage reveal is the way to correct my sin? (How is God correcting me from what He is saying in this passage?)
- What disciplines are revealed from this passage which are necessary for me in order that I might not repeat my sin? (How is God training me in righteousness from what He is saying in this passage?)

Related Scriptures

Genesis 4:3-8; Genesis 37; Genesis 39-47 and 50; Psalm 64:2-4; Psalm 106:33;
Proverbs 5:3-4; Proverbs 10:12; Proverbs 10:18; Proverbs 14:10; Proverbs 14:13;
Proverbs 14:21; Proverbs 14:30; Proverbs 18:19; Proverbs 25:21-22; Ecclesiastes
7:26; Matthew 5:21-24; Matthew 5:43-48; Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:21-35; Mark
11:25; Luke 17:1-10; Romans 3:14; Romans 12:17-21; Ephesians 4:26-27; Ephesians
4:31-32; Philippians 1:12-18; Colossians 3:12-14; Colossians 3:19; Hebrews 12:15;
James 3:14; 1 John 2:9-11; 1 John 3:11-15; 1 John 4:19-21

Questions to help you evaluate your heart concerning bitterness

- When others sin against you, do you go to them, as Jesus instructs, in order to reconcile with them? If not, why not?

- How do you typically respond toward someone when he/she has hurt, offended, or sinned against you?
- Do you find it difficult to forgive when someone has hurt, offended, or sinned against you?
- Is there someone right now you are finding it difficult to forgive? Who is he/she?
- What did that person do that you cannot forgive?
- Why will you not forgive him/her?
- Does withholding forgiveness from him/her do anything for you?
- Does withholding forgiveness from him/her do anything to him/her?
- Do you have a history of broken friendships/relationships?
- Describe what happened in some of your broken friendships/relationships?
- Do you think that you typically find it difficult to let go of offenses?
- Is there something about you that makes it difficult for you to let go of offenses?
- Has there ever been any good that has come for you from holding on to offenses? What?
- Has any bad ever come from your holding on to an offense? Give some examples.
- What does God tell you in His Word about responding to hurts, offenses, and sins?
- The Bible warns against allowing a “bitter root” to “grow up to cause trouble and defile many.” Do you think that you have allowed bitterness to take root and grow?
- How has your bitterness defiled many? Who has your bitterness defiled? [defile = to pollute, stain, corrupt, spoil]

Homework/Projects to help you begin to “put off” bitterness

- Study the story of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 37, 39-47, and 50.
 - How did Joseph’s brothers get from being jealous of him to wanting to kill him?
 - Why was Joseph willing to forgive his brothers?
- Begin working to commit Hebrews 12:14-15 to memory.