

Offense

May 5/6, 2018 // Little Giants, pt4

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ME OFFENDED? OF COURSE!

_____ : Something that causes you to stumble or fall. A _____.

Spiritual Principle:

Our response to an offense determines our future _____ growth.

WE SLAY THE GIANT OF OFFENSE IN OUR LIVES BY:

1. Believing that it can and does happen to me.

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, ...’” Luke 17:1a (NIV)

_____ : literally means impossible not to

“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other.” Matthew 24:10 (NIV)

_____ : literally means “that many will be offended”

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.” Ephesians 4: 17-18 (NIV)

_____ : hardening of their hearts

2. Recognizing what it is and who is the ultimate source.

“In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV)

_____ : a dwelling place, position, a mansion

3. Being set free from the trap.

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

*** _____ and being _____ is the key to getting out of the prison you are in.**

Exercise the muscle of forgiveness by:

- _____ others and God
- _____ ourselves and asking God and others to forgive us
- _____ for the offender—what is best for them

Lord Jesus, I choose to forgive [*name the person*] for {*what he/she did or failed to do*} because it made me feel [*share the painful feelings; i.e., rejected, dirty, worthless, inferior, etc.*].

Lord Jesus, I choose not to hold on to my resentment. I relinquish my right to seek revenge and ask You to heal my damaged emotions. Thank You for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness. I now ask You to bless those who have hurt me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

*Prayers from “The Steps to Freedom in Christ” by Neil T. Anderson