

## **ONE MONTH TO LIVE**

### **THE ACT OF FORGIVING**

**Dear Friend:**

**If you have been reading In Touch you know that on March 7 we launched a church-wide campaign called: "One Month To Live". We asked the question: "How would I live if I knew I only had one month to live?". I think we would all live a little differently than we do now. During the course of this campaign we are going to look at such principles as; living passionately, loving completely, learning humbly, and leaving boldly. This week, let's talk about loving completely, more specifically, the necessity to forgive others if we are going to love like Jesus wants us to.**

**Have you known people who have gone to their grave holding bitterness towards someone? Could you tell that they had unforgiveness in their heart? Most of us have known someone like this. I hope none of you reading this In Touch want to go out of this world in the way I just described. What are the keys to going to our grave free from bitterness? Please read these three keys....**

**The first key is: realize Christ commands us to forgive others. He says so in multiple places and so does Paul. Remember these words from the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who trespass against us" The second key to keeping us from going to our grave with bitterness is: forgive others for your own sake! I could fill pages and pages with spiritual, psychological, and physical harm that failing to forgive does to us. The scripture is clear about this: bitterness blocks blessings. The third key is: remember, when we do forgive, our conscious can be guilt free. A non-Christian can hold a grudge and be bitter for a lifetime, refusing to forgive yet not feel guilty. On the other hand, if a Christian hold a grudge, is bitter and refuses to forgive and there is not serious guilt the question needs to be asked: "Am I really a Christian?"**

**I understand, it is much easier to write about forgiveness than to actually practice forgiveness. I confess, I have my forgiveness battles too. However, if I had one month to live I pray that I would not spend the month failing to forgive someone or hold on to bitterness towards them.**

**In Christ Love, Pastor Mike**

**Prayer Requests: Dave McKinney, our shut-ins, The War in Ukraine**

**Events: Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m: For the first time in over 40 years we will have a collegiate college choir here in concert, Mt. Vernon Nazarene. MOVE WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO TO BE HERE**