

PENIEL

My Ministry Minute *From The Heart Of The Founder*

Vol. 1 No. 6



Dr. Marion Spellman

It All Boils Down To Revenge

*“Say not, I will do so to him as he hath
done to me: I will render to the man
according to his work.”*

Proverbs 24:29



In our scripture, the Holy Spirit is taking the parental role as he figuratively shakes his finger, sternly insisting that we destroy our precious private files on people who have hurt us. He is referring to the detailed dossiers that we have carefully maintained and thought that no one knew about. After all, we had secured them safely within the recesses of our hearts.

Ah yes, the Holy Spirit is referring to our secret diaries that include the sorted details of painful grievances committed against us by others; those offenses that no other person on earth has ever seen. The ones that we are downright embarrassed to admit still linger, but the truth of the matter is – we just cannot overcome them.

Our memoirs prove, with specific dates, times and events, that this pain is not just a figment of our imagination. No indeed! These transgressions were viciously and in many cases willfully committed against us. Yes, we will admit that there were innocent words and deeds that are intermingled, here and there, but by now, it is hard to distinguish which is which. Our solution to that is to personally examine our own hearts to make the decision to forgive or not to forgive. (Did I hear a sigh of alarm from the reader?)



*We are afraid to exercise our spiritual power by
destroying our “Grievance Against Me Records”*

Too often we measure our capability to forgive by how we interpret our circumstances and according to the traumatic events of our lives. We believe that we must hold others accountable for their actions, (howbeit, if only in our hearts) if we are to ultimately succeed. It is hard to believe that forgiveness is the only formula given to man guaranteed to achieve inner peace and true freedom for ourselves.

We are afraid to exercise our spiritual power by destroying our “Grievance Against Me Records” because we do not understand how this all works.



His command to us is simply:

“Say Not!”

The caution here is “not to say.” This admonition is so strong that it implies that the very mention of getting even will generate a tremendous backlash.

As we see it, our memories of the past are our only real proof. Taking matters into our own hands and manipulating situations is the way we have chosen to fight.

Man's description and God's definition of victory have never been - nor ever will be compatible.

Since we are unable to change the behavior of others, and our natural influence is limited, it is not uncommon to find ourselves stooping to carnal methods to protect ourselves or even to make a point.

Well! This portion of scripture presents a better weapon. Indeed, a more sure way. The answer will take effort, but it is very clear! We must work hard to avoid indulging in negative self-gratification. Do not even acknowledge with your words that the pain, regardless how great, is worth lowering your standards and Christian position to retaliate. Hear the Holy Spirit as He highlights the power of our words. His command to us is to simply: "Say Not!" The caution here is "not to say." This admonition is so strong that it implies that the very mention of getting even will generate a tremendous backlash.

As I read this scripture, I thought, if the Holy Spirit is warning me to "Say Not" ... something ... by insinuation, He is also instructing me to ... “But Say” ... something. In other words, I should replace the "Say Not" words with the “But Say” words.

Therefore, according to this teaching a positive confession will ultimately bring about the results that we have been searching for and should sound something like this: "I will bless them that curse me, I will do good to them that hate me, and pray for them that despitefully use me, and persecute me;" (Matthew 5:44)

As one part of our devotions, each morning my husband purposely reads Romans 12:21. All of Peniel staff and students have heard him say at one time or another, and certainly before they leave our care, “Keep doing the right thing, and eventually the right thing will happen.”

We have made Romans 12:21 a part of our basic life style and ethos and I give as my gift to you for the day: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (KJV)

My Ministry Minute
is a monthly publication by Dr. Marion Spellman mailed exclusively to selected church and community leaders.