

You have made a request to have a personal appointment to go through the Steps to Freedom in Christ. To assure that your appointment will be as meaningful as possible, here is some helpful information and preparatory steps for you to take.

**Freedom Appointment Explanation:**

This Confidential Personal History (CPH) has a double purpose. It is a preparatory step for you, by helping you focus on issues to pray about as you go through your Freedom Appointment. It will also help the Encourager prayerfully prepare for your appointment.

The appointment itself is really a quiet time with God. You will be helped to resolve issues from your past and present. You will be led to firmly establish your identity in Christ so that you may know that you are totally forgiven, loved and empowered to live for Him.

You will be led to pray through the *Steps to Freedom in Christ*, covering seven areas of life where Satan has taken advantage of all of us in one way or another. The session normally takes from three to five hours. There will be an Encourager to guide you through the process, but the healing and empowering will come as you prayerfully confess and renounce sin or bondage in your life and then verbally affirm God's truth that stands in opposition to the enemy's lies. There will also be a "Prayer Partner" in the appointment for the purpose of supportive prayer throughout the appointment. Everyone present will be committed to maintain confidentiality and has signed a confidentiality agreement.

Most important, God is in the session. We commit the entire time to Him and trust Him to reveal the issues that need to be dealt with so that you can be helped toward resolution of those areas.

**Completing Required Confidential Information:**

Complete and send the attached "Confidential Personal History" (CPH) Form to:

**Director of Freedom Ministry**  
**New Hope Church**  
**4741 Zealand Ave. N.**  
**New Hope, MN 55428**

If you do not hear back from us within two weeks of sending us this completed paperwork, please contact the Director of Freedom Ministry at 763-971-5119.

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## **Personal Preparation**

While advice and encouragement may be given along the way, that is not the focus of this appointment. It is your personal spiritual encounter with the Wonderful Counselor. Therefore, it is essential for you to have a good understanding of the spiritual world in which we live, who we are in Christ, and why and how we can stand against the evil one and be strong in Christ.

Every person has a life history to deal with that has taken years to develop. Rather than rush into the session unprepared, it is wise to take whatever time necessary to establish a spiritual foundation of the Biblical truths that can set you free as you go through the Steps.

There are various ways to accomplish this. It is helpful to complete the attached Bible Study while you wait for your appointment. You may also begin reading *The Bondage Breaker* by Dr. Neil Anderson. (For easier reading, some people prefer to read *The Bondage Breaker-Youth Edition*, by Dr. Neil Anderson and Dave Park.) This book can be purchased on your own or you may borrow a copy from our Care Ministries library by contacting the Director of Freedom Ministry (763-971-5119).

God may bring more issues to your mind during your appointment. Come ready to be totally open and honest in order to gain the greatest help. It is natural to sense some apprehension as you anticipate your appointment, but you will find an atmosphere of love and acceptance there.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Freedom Ministry at 763-971-5119.**

# Forgiving Others Bible Study

**While you wait for your appointment, you are encouraged to pray about this area and work on the Bible study below.**

Forgiveness is the central issue in man's relationship to God, "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)," and "the wages of sin is death (i.e., separation from God, Romans 6:23)." The purpose for the first coming of Christ was to take upon Himself our sin (2 Corinthians 5), pay the penalty for it (Hebrews 9:22) in order that we may be forgiven (Colossians 1:14). It is also the basis for our relationship with other people. Comment on the following verses:

1. Matthew 5:23-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Matthew 6:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Matthew 18:21-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
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a. How does our debt of sin before a holy God compare to the debt others may owe us?

b. How would knowing this enable us to forgive others (see also Luke 7:47)?

c. How often should we forgive others (see also Luke 17:3-5)?

d. Is this a question of faith or obedience?

e. How does God feel toward those whom He has forgiven by sacrificing His only begotten Son when they will not forgive others?

f. Should we see forgiveness as optional or required by God of His children?

The most common reason for not forgiving another is the desire to seek revenge. "Justice must be served." "You'll pay for this" or "I'll get even," if not stated are certainly felt. Comment on the following verses concerning these inner thoughts and feelings:

1. Romans 12:19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 Peter 3:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 John 4:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Proverbs 24:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What six responses stand in contrast to forgiveness in Ephesians 4:31?  
What are we to do?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Forgiveness is not forgetting. People who try to forget find they cannot. God says He will remember our sins no more (Heb.10:17), but God being omniscient cannot forget. What it means is that God will not take our past offenses and use them against us. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us (Ps. 103:12)." Forgetting may be the result of forgiveness but never the means of forgiveness. Forgiveness is also a hard choice because it pulls against the idea of justice. But our relationship with God is based on His mercy (Titus 3:5) and so it must be with others (Luke 6:35-38). Forgiveness is costly; we must pay the price of the evil we forgive. We accept the consequences of another person's sin upon ourselves. Consequently, it is substitutional. No one really forgives another without bearing the penalty of the other person's sin. This is forgiving others as Christ has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13). You may say "but I can't forgive them, they hurt me so badly." This is certainly true and undoubtedly nobody has really forgiven another without acknowledging the hurt and often the hate (Prov. 14:10). The point is they are still hurting you and the hurt will continue to bind you until you release yourself from the past by forgiving. "But they are off the hook" the heart is quick to protest. Not really, for they will stand before God some day and give an account (2 Cor. 5:10)