

STEP 8 - MADE A LIST OF ALL PERSONS WE HAD HARMED AND BECAME WILLING TO MAKE AMENDS TO THEM ALL.

First we make a list then we "become willing." This is another example of our doing our part and God doing His, because, "becoming willing" is another work that has to happen in the heart.

When compiling our list we should not only list those we have harmed by "word and deed" and the "sins of omission", but also, since unforgiveness can be a root cause of much trouble in our lives, we should list those persons who have harmed us as well. We understand that in some of these areas there may still be a great deal of pain, but God wants us to trust Him so that He can heal us.

PROVERBS 14:9 - Fools mock at making amends for sin, but good will is found among the upright.

1. What is the difference between "mocking" and "good will"?
2. What connection is there between "good will" and "making amends"?

JOHN 13:34 & 35 - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1. Does this mean that we are to love others "right where they are"?
2. From where did Jesus get his ability to love?
3. How do the commandments Jesus mentions in Matthew 22:37-40 differ from this one?

MATTHEW 5:21 & 22 - "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to the judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca', is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

1. Can anger prevent us from "becoming willing to make amends"?
2. Do you think that holding anger and unforgiveness against another can lead to an even greater sin in our lives?
3. What do these Scriptures say we will receive when we regard others with contempt?

1 JOHN 2:9-11 - Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1. What does making amends have to do with "living in the light"?
2. Can we as Christians still live in darkness?
3. How can we be blinded by darkness? How do we come into the light?

MATTHEW 5:23 & 24 - "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

1. What does it mean to "offer your gift at the altar"?
2. What does it mean to "leave your gift there in front of the altar"?
3. Does this include "anyone" in our past?

MATTHEW 7:12 - "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

1. What were the "Law and the Prophets" pointing us toward?
2. When the Scripture says "others", does this include our enemies?
3. Are we willing to treat others with the same kindness and respect that we desire?

MARK 11:25 - "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

1. Does this Scripture mean that if we don't forgive, we won't be forgiven?
2. Are we holding anything against anyone? Are we willing to forgive?
3. Does lack of forgiveness on our part have any effect on the way our prayers are answered?

PROVERBS 20:22 - Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.

1. What does it mean, "wait for the Lord and he will deliver you"?
2. What if we were to be "paid back" for everything?
3. What should we do when someone wrongs us?

PROVERBS 24:29 - Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did."

1. Why shouldn't we "pay that man back"?
2. Do you think it's up to us to punish others?
3. Does the desire to "get even" come back to us at times, even though we have made the decision to forgive?

LUKE 6:27 & 28 - "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

1. If I hate my brother, is my life controlled by that hatred?
2. Are we able to do these things in our own strength?

MATTHEW 6:14 & 15 - "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

1. If we make others pay for their sins, how will the Father treat us?
2. Does this leave us any other choice but to forgive?
3. What is the similarity between this Scripture and the one in the Lord's Prayer?

1 PETER 4:7 & 8 - The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1. Must we first be willing to forgive others before we can walk in love and self-control?
2. What does the application of this Step have to do with being "clear-minded and self-controlled"?
3. Are we really trying to love others, even the ones that we think are unlovable?
4. What are the conditions for "effective" prayer?