

## VIII. FORGIVENESS

- A. Forgiveness is key if the pain in your life is fueled by someone who hurt you a long time ago.

B. When he was seventeen years old, after living in America as a lost and broken soul, Wess learned that if you don't forgive the people hurting you, you carry them like a burden on your back.

C. You allow them to live rent-free in your heart.

D. At seventeen, he understood that and said:

*I know you're not sorry. I know you will never apologize. So I choose to forgive you. Get out of my heart, get out of my mind, and get out of my life. What you did to me is not going to define the rest of my life. You took my childhood, but you cannot have the rest of my life. You took yesterday, but you cannot have tomorrow. Get out. I forgive you.*

E. Forgiveness does not mean you forget; but you will not forget what you do not forgive.

F. Forgiveness does not mean that what happened to you doesn't matter, that the person should not pay the consequences, or that you have to reconcile and bring them into your life—but it does mean you have to give up your right to revenge.

G. Neil Anderson wrote, "Unforgiveness is the number one avenue Satan uses to gain entrance into believers' lives."

H. Don't give Satan that kind of control in your life.

I. By God's grace we can cut ourselves free and soar and be used in the kingdom of God.

J. What is your story?

K. Wess clings to the hope that one day soon we will hear a trumpet, and the sky will open and we all will go home.

1. There will be no more pain or tears.

2. There will be no more sorrow.

3. His prayer for all of us is to run into the arms of our Jesus, and that as Jesus wipes the tears from our eyes, he also has to wipe the sweat from our brow, because we forgave, loved and lived the life he planned for us until we were wonderfully interrupted by heaven.