



I was not willing to let go. But...

My mother Epsi, as she was lovingly called, was a beautiful and delicate 23 year old who loved the Lord, loved life and enjoyed being part of all the local church activities. Her marriage brought a rude shock and an abrupt end to life as she knew until then.

Every day she would be beaten up and abused at the hands of her husband. Although startled and quiet at first, she eventually tried to seek help from anywhere she could. She would speak to local people, acquaintances and anyone she came across of what she was going through, desperately hoping someone would help, maybe even counsel her husband. Slowly, a few took notice and decided to intervene. But, as people began trying to reach out to my father and counsel him, he became increasingly frustrated and angry at my mother. He would beat her up to scare her and make her stop talking about what happens at home. But, she did not stop.

My mother died when I was fifteen months old. I was too young to understand or remember anything from what happened then.

It seems natural that as my mother kept on talking to others about the abuse at home, my father would have become more and more infuriated with her. Desperate to quieten her, murder could have been an option he considered. Finally, he planned it and during one of their fights, he found the opportunity.

As the fight heated up, my father made sure that I was put in another room and then emptied the overhead water tank. He then went on to pour kerosene on my mother, lit the match and threw it at her. As soon as the fire was blazing engulfing my mother and she began screaming, the neighbours started rushing in. My father, afraid of being caught by them, ran away. **My aunts, mom's sisters, prepared to file a complaint but, my mom refused, insisting that she did not**

want her child to be called a murderer's son. She wanted to release her husband in forgiveness. So, when the police came down for her statement, she told them that it was her mistake and that her husband had nothing to do with it.

I heard this story when I was 21 years old. I was already bitter against my dad and when I came to know of this story, I became furious. **My bitterness deep down became very strong. I was not willing and ready to let go.**



"Sometimes the hardest thing in life for a human to do is to let go and let God. We sometimes get so caught up with trying to hold on and we miss out on what we wanted, right in front of us, because of refusal to let go." Niccarria Dent

Oh yes, two weeks ago I wrote a post that we need to hold on. But today, it is all about not holding on, but letting go. Human tendency to hold on and hold on and hold on and hold on, especially to unforgiveness can be dangerous.

You see, when you forgive someone, you help yourself, but when you don't forgive, you continue to hurt yourself.

1) Unforgiveness always keeps a long account. I was fussing and fuming at my father and I would bring up stuff that happened years before and it kept growing until it became a bitter giant in my heart. Hmm... it was not very great.

2) Unforgiveness always proudly boasts of itself. Unforgiveness always says, "I always do good and others do bad. Why is life so hard on me?" Remember this question is arising from our own place of unforgiveness and bitterness.

3) Unforgiveness always complains and complains and complains. We begin to have an attitude that others don't do anything for us and we are the best ones on planet earth. If you're continuously using your mouth to complain about some incident of offense, you won't get past it. Don't waste time complaining. It's like scratching the wound every day. It would never heal, but bleed.

4) Unforgiveness has a tendency to not enjoy life. Workaholics are particularly the ones prone to fall in this trap. People who work all the time and don't know how to enjoy their life get jealous of others enjoying their lives. Is there someone who aggravates you by looking too happy with their lives? When you see them having a good time? If yes, you could have unforgiveness

toward them. I only said you could. It could be jealousy or envy too. Do an acid test for your heart :)

5) Unforgiveness always divides and dooms. I see many running away from right relationships and staying away from the right people. You know why? Because unforgiveness deep down causes this divide. Unforgiveness always looks to divide and separate you from right relationships and right places.

6) Unforgiveness is always angry when the other person is improving and doing well. If someone who has hurt you gets a blessing, you begin to grind and grill your teeth. You are never able to celebrate another person's success.

I can keep adding to this list. I will write more on this for the next three weeks.

Let me give you three important pointers today.

- **FORGIVENESS** is not a one-time act. It begins that way, but it is a process.
- **FORGIVENESS** cannot happen if you escape or bury or avoid. We need to face it up and deal with it.
- **FORGIVENESS** releases your heart and your spirit. Forgiveness is good for you.

In the meantime, can you start thinking and evaluating those places and relationships in your own life? Let this week be amazing as you begin to take that fantastic journey.