

# Prophetic Insight

## Disengaging From Blind Loyalty To A Common Darkness

*Refusing to be used as Jezebel's  
serial killer or as a murder victim*

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This article follows up our last Prophetic Insight, *Blind Loyalty To A Common Darkness*. We know from many years of experience that people who habitually *use their tongue to murder others* have become so stuck in what they do that they don't recognize they've become **serial killers**. And just as bad, those who've grown accustomed to listening to others being *murdered through words* don't even realize the vile evil they are involved in. Yet from our Father's perspective (assuming that's what you're looking for!), a murderous mouth nullifies a relationship with Him:

*"If anyone **considers themselves religious** and yet does not keep a tight rein on his/her tongue, they deceive themselves and **their religion is worthless**" (James 1:26).*

**In this Prophetic Insight we'll show you • alternatives to take if you've been murdered, • the need to confront murderous mouths, • and the severity of this issue in Scripture.**

**First, an essential reality: EVERYONE gets hurt or let down by others.**

The major point to remember if you've been hurt is that the *road to bitterness* begins when an unChrist-like attitude gnaws at you: **"I deserve better!"** This one false expectation that you *deserve better* or that others should *treat you better* ALWAYS ends up in bitterness. And sadly, poisoned by this expectation, you're more likely to murder the offender with your mouth.

But there are *alternatives* you can take that are redemptive, and the first is the best:

**Alternative 1.** If you've been hurt or let down by someone and they haven't asked your forgiveness, do you have the grace to just forgive them in your heart and never bring it up again? To forgive like this you need to know our Lord Jesus as your Perfect Role Model:

*"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).*

If our Lord could respond like this in the face of the injustice that crucified Him, do you think any less is expected of those who belong to Him? Just know that the love of Christ which grace gives is powerful, overlooking all offenses. That's why Paul could tell us that *agape* love keeps no record of wrongs (1Corinthians 13:5).

If you have ill feelings toward someone and are bad-mouthing them, and/or if you've been hurt by others, take to heart these heaven-sent insights:

• *"Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs" (Proverbs 10:12).*

• *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1Peter 4:8).*

**The Holy Spirit Gives You A "Window Of Grace" In Which You MUST Forgive**

Those who live in loving relationship with Jesus *as their Lord* recognize that His Spirit opens a *"window of grace"* to them, a limited period of time to forgive out of loving and obedient trust. When you use that window right away as His love-empowered opportunity of Father's will for you, your soul prospers by it. But you can

see from God’s Word that whenever people missed that window of grace through outright defiance or “fiddle-faddling,” they suffered for their *disobedience*.

Over the years we’ve met so many Christians who thought they had all the time in the world to work up courage to forgive someone who hurt them. But to their dismay, their delay in forgiving resulted in them eventually murdering their offender with their mouth. Painful repercussion surrounds the misguided who mistakenly believe that our Lord’s Spirit affords them slack to forgive on *their own terms* and in *their own timing* while they chew on their “right” to harbor and voice ill-will. Far from it!

So many in Christianity today find it impossible to overlook the wrongs done to them. The core reason? They’ve never determined in their heart to *“take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”* (2Corinthians 10:5). Years ago phones were the means to murder others through slander and gossip. Now it’s tweets, Facebook and other immediate social access systems that allow people to murder easily without first stopping to align their thoughts and emotions with those of our Lord Jesus.

Do *you* find it hard to forgive others? This is the setting in which *our Lord’s love* can empower you: **every time your thoughts and emotions are made obedient to His!**

**Alternative 2.** Armed with Christ’s attitude, confront the person who hurt you. Only the Spirit of Christ in you can heal your wounded emotions, but you can purpose to forgive in your heart and reconcile the matter *before* you become a **mouth-murderer** through slander and gossip against that individual. Scripture narrows down the issue you face:

“Anyone who covers over an offense **promotes love**, but whoever repeats the matter **separates close friends**” (Proverbs 17:9).

“Shouldn’t you have **had mercy** on your [offender] just as I had on you?’ In anger his Master turned him over to [demonic forces] **to be tortured...** This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you **unless you forgive your brother from your heart**” (Matthew 18:33-35).

**Biblical confrontation is not conflict.**

- **Conflict:** You approach your offender in your own strength and attack him or her for what they did.
- **Confrontation:** You go with the love of Jesus, approaching the person redemptively the way Jesus did with your sins.

**Conflict**  
“YOU HURT ME!”



**Confrontation**  
“Can WE talk?”



Confrontation is *not* synonymous with conflict. Biblical confrontation enables a detrimental situation to be redemptively changed for the better. The *goal and process* involved in confrontation redeems the relationship. When it comes to confronting someone who has hurt you or let you down, it’s the *love of Christ* that gives you the power to approach them, confronting what is hurting your relationship.

Conflict on the other hand involves a “win/lose” element in which one person must be the victor while the other goes down in defeat. No one who belongs to Jesus looks for conflict. “Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out” (Proverbs 17:14). Although confrontation and conflict may create similar emotions, the goals of each have absolutely nothing in common.

For a more thorough discussion of biblical confrontation, see our short book, “**Growing Relationships Through Confrontation**.” <<http://www.restorationministries.org/pdf/books/grtc/GrowingRelationships.pdf>> [free]

Can you hear our Lord speaking to your spirit now? Even now so many Christians have positioned our Father to submit them to torture so they'll humbly repent and forgive. Many of those being tortured by inner unseen forces are going to counselors to feel better about themselves as "victims." And this path only spreads the slander and gossip against the offender further. Reflect on these important biblical truths:

- Our Father will not enter into Covenant with an unforgiving/bitter person.
- His loving purpose for them is to repent; their torture will go on until they do forgive.
- If they remain bitter/unforgiving at death, the verdict at the Judgment Throne will be this: *"If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"* (Matthew 6:15). *"Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him"* (1John 3:15).

Do you want to face the horrific consequences you deserve if you refuse to appropriate the Spirit's grace of loving-forgiveness? If you just can't do Alternative 1, you must use Alternative 2. If that doesn't heal the relationship, pray and then bring someone you each trust, a *peacemaker*, with you to hear both sides.

*"Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?"* (1Corinthians 6:5).

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God"* (Matthew 5:9).

*"Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness"* (James 3:18).

For a more on being a peacemaker (*nasi* in Hebrew), we strongly encourage you to read: **"Kingdom Living Today, 39. Peacemakers Sow And Reap A Harvest Of Righteousness."** This is peacemaking in action!  
<http://www.restorationministries.org/pdf/KingdomLiving/39.KingdomLivingToday.pdf>

## Confronting The Other Gears

### *Stopping the Gears from Spinning*

If you belong to Jesus, you **MUST** stop both the murderer and the listener. Why? Because *His love* causes you to feel emotional pain as you realize the wickedness of murder, and how speaking slander and listening to it defames Lord Jesus. You also confront to keep yourself out of sin and to be a peacemaker between those who are being murdered and the murderer.



If you're going to stop the gears from their malicious turning, you'll need Christ's love to redemptively confront each of the other gears. And face it: your relationship with the other gears may *seem* like you love them. But in reality and for whatever reason, you fear getting on the wrong side of them: *"Fear of [people] will prove to be a snare..."* (Proverbs 29:25). Also, being a participant in murder is an awful snare!

If you're really honest with yourself you'll realize that every act of kindness you did toward the other spinning gears was done to remain accepted by them. But from God's perspective, the things you were doing *to be accepted* weren't love-motivated but rather fear-induced.

So if you're prepared to stop the gears, know that the authentic love of Jesus not only keeps you from taking part in murder, but also confronts those who murder with their mouth: *"Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins"* (James 5:20).

**“Blessed and filled with joy are those who promote peace and harmony between people. They are truly Father’s children. A peacemaker has a heart full of praise to their Lord!”**

We’re all warned by the Spirit to *“see to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many”* (Hebrews 12:15). Bitter hearts are dominated by *cold love*—the worst form of defiling others. But, showing Christ’s love requires His Spirit’s mighty work in and through you no matter the opposition: *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will receive salvation”* (Matt. 24:12,13).

NOW is the time to accept the window of grace our Lord’s Spirit gives. NOW is the time to make sure you and those you care about are not held guilty of murder at the Judgment Throne. It’s going to take love-driven diligence to both pursue and undo the murderous trail which slander and gossip have left. Begin now!

Eternally speaking, you might say that stopping your family and/or faith community from murdering is a task of ultimate love and grace. Their rescue requires a peacemaker. Are you one?

**Reflect on this: Our legal system has given the criminal defendant more rights than the victim or their family. It’s the same with mouth-murderers. The group that supports them (often a family or faith community’s “in” clique) excuses them and ignores the ones being murdered.**

Mike: My first deployment to Vietnam was with a helicopter detachment aboard a cargo ship (USS Sacramento). We’d spend many weeks at a time off the coast of Vietnam resupplying both



ship- and land-based forces. Onboard were **“rumor-mongers”** who started lies to discourage other people. For example, “I heard that our port visit to Hong Kong has been cancelled.” Or, “I heard our deployment is being extended for another six months.”

I went to the Executive Officer one day and asked if anyone had the collateral duty of being Morale Officer. He told me no one had been assigned so I volunteered. He was surprised. “You’re on a detachment here and not even ship’s company. You sure you want to do this?” “Yes, sir!” I replied.

Whenever I heard of a demoralizing rumor, I began following the trail of each person who’d repeated it. I’d ultimately find the culprit who started the rumor and take him to the Executive Officer. We never had that problem with the same man again!

I share this anecdote because I know from experience the holy task at hand to stop murder and discouraging voices. Along with my military experience, decades of working with religious leaders and our years of conducting retreats and seminars around the country have almost inherently included confronting murder in families and faith communities. As a wise person once said,

**“Christians are the only ones who shoot their wounded.”**



Don’t let this be said about you or about members of your family or faith community. Whether you’ve one of the gears, or no gear at all, *someone* has to be the peacemaker, willing to confront the murderers out of love for our Lord and for them!