

Life Group Notes 3/2/2025

Charlie Temple—The Power of Forgiveness.

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Charlie Temple has raised this week, 3/2. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. The footnote this week looks...

1. [On Corrie Ten Boom and the Hiding Place.](#)

Important: [At the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Charlie Temple began by saying, "Let me tell you something: There is power in the name of Jesus." Do you have a testimony? Can you explain what he means? He continued: "He breaks every chain..." and then he prophesied, "I hear the chains falling this morning. Chains of hatred. Chains of hatred. Chains of resentment. Chains of bitterness are already falling off this morning for this group of people..."

"When I was growing up, grade school, high school, college, grad school I had this interest in history. I thought I was going to be a history teacher, but God had other plans...that brought me to the position that I'm in now. A position that looks back a lot at history."

1. Charlie is a judge in the NH court system. How was he prepared?
2. How does knowing and understanding history help a judge?

He continued, "So I'm going to give you a history lesson..."

1. Whose story did Charlie tell?
2. What do you know of the Ten Boom family? (See [the footnote 1 below.](#))

3. Charlie called the Dutch underground resistance to the Nazis “God’s underground resistance.” Explain.
4. What do you remember of Charlie’s recounting of the plight of the Ten Booms?
5. How did the sisters, Corrie and Elizabeth (Betsy), get their hands on the Bible in the concentration camp?
6. Charlie quoted Corrie, who said, “I’m not there to share a religion. I’m there to share the person of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world with all these women.” How do you do that?
7. What’s the difference?
8. When Corrie asked Betsy, “How can we share the gospel like this when we are so infested with lice?” what was Betsy’s response? Do you remember?
9. Why thank God for fleas and lice?
10. Do you remember Betsy’s last words? Corrie Ten Boom herself comes on at the end of the movie *The Hiding Place* and quotes them, take two minutes to watch her speak them. (https://youtu.be/-zNDe30_eKw?si=9eflYWA43sOOc4ZX&t=8549) Describe what the words do to you. What color are Corrie’s eyes?
11. She said, “There is no pit deep enough that God is not deeper still.” Explain. Do you have a testimony?
12. Do you remember how Corrie Ten Boom escaped the gas chambers?
13. Historically, Ravensbrück did gas all the women Corrie’s age a week after her release. Explain the implications of her release. How did God work this for our good?
14. Do you remember the decision Corrie made, as related by Charlie? How does one forgive the oppressors of Ravensbrück? The Nazis who tortured Corrie’s father to death?
15. What is the fruit of such forgiveness?
16. Look up Matthew 6: **12** *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.* **13** *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.* **14** *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* **15** *But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours.* What do you notice?
17. After teaching the Lord’s prayer, what is the only principle to which Christ returns to clarify? (Verse 15.)
18. Why is it so important that we forgive first? What is the alternative?

Charlie continued to relate Corrie’s testimony. She began her ministry of reconciliation immediately after the war, and went to all lands with that message, including Germany.

1. To continue her father’s legacy, she opened homes to holocaust survivors. How does that work?
2. Do you remember whom she encountered in Germany?
3. What had that German soldier done to her and especially to her sister?
4. What was Corrie’s response to her sister’s tormentor?
5. How do you know this type of forgiveness is supernatural?
6. Explain how God’s grace is supernatural, and undeserved.

Charlie says Corrie Ten Boom is defined by these words, “Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment, and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.” Charlie says, “She didn’t just say those words. She lived those words. She was there to share the Word and the power of Jesus Christ that break the chains of anger.”

1. He says, "Put yourself in her place." Do it. She witnessed atrocities that this world had never before documented up close and clearly. What do you think? How would you respond?
2. He says, "We need to have the courage to engage the power of God to forgive." Why does it take courage to forgive?
3. What is the ultimate example of engagement when speaking of forgiveness? What price did Jesus pay to engage the power of forgiveness in your life?
4. Who all was included in Jesus' decision to engage these powers? Who is excluded?

Charlie's observations for taking this home:

1. You have to rest in the truth that God is forgiving you through Jesus Christ. Look up Colossians 3: [12](#) *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. [13](#) Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14](#) And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. [15](#) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful.* What do you see? List the steps in your own words. Look at Matthew [12](#) *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. [13](#) Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14](#) And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. [15](#) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful.* (Remember what Jesus told the disciples, [above, in Matthew 6:14 and 15](#). What must you do to ensure your own forgiveness? What happens when choose not to forgive?
2. God commands us to love and forgive everyone, including our enemies. How difficult is that? Have you ever had to forgive someone who wronged you, and set himself up as your opponent? What did you do? How does Corrie Ten Boom's example with the camp guard help instruct us in our situations?
 - a. Review Revelation 12: [10](#) *And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he who accuses them day and night before our God. [11](#) They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death.* Explain how the word of Corrie's testimony overcame the accusers in her travels. What power is there in your own testimony?
 - b. Charlie says, "Resentment and anger control us. It shapes our spiritual being. If, because you have been wronged, you turn into a being full of anger you cannot live in love. God is encouraging you to live that life of love." What is your response?
 - c. In Corrie Ten Boom's case, which came first, her willingness to forgive, or her testimony? Notice, she forgave the guard one day in 1947. How long has the

power of her testimony been in operation...how far does that power extend, even today?

- d. Why is this called "spiritual warfare?"
 - e. Review 2 Corinthians 10:**3***For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. **4**The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5**We tear down arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* How effectively was Corrie Ten Boom armed?
 - f. How can you know you are likewise armed?
 - g. Charlie says, "Hatred paralyzes your entire being. You cannot form meaningful relations if you are hating, or with someone else who is hating all the time." What is the antidote? Do you have a testimony?
 - h. Look at the antidote Paul described to the Romans in 12: **14***Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse... **19**Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord. **20**On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head." **21**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
3. There is power and freedom and forgiveness. "Jesus Christ, as He was being nailed to the cross, said, 'Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.'"
- a. How is this testimony like that of Corrie Ten Boom's above?
 - b. How is it so much greater than hers? How great is the power of a good example? Explain. What is learned from a good example?
 - c. For whom was Jesus praying?
 - d. Was the Roman with the nails and the hammer included in the prayer?
 - e. Was anyone excluded from the prayer, had they chosen to accept this forgiveness?
 - f. How does one "choose" to accept forgiveness? Is it difficult? Explain.
 - g. Charlie says, "When there is that divine level of forgiveness, lives are changed." Do you have a testimony? What happened when you knew you were forgiven?

Charlie concludes, "I'm not telling you to forgive. I'm not. It's not in me...it's in Jesus. The words of this book are screaming out to you to be kind and compassionate. To love one another. These are commands: Forgiving each other just as Christ forgave you. It's time to forgive. We need freedom from resentment and anger."

1. What is your response?
2. How important is forgiveness in the world climate as we witness it today?
3. If Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before *him*, what have you been given to look forward to? Does that make your pain endurable?

The Follow-up application:

1. Use [the SOAP journal studies below](#) throughout this week.
2. Make a list of the steps Paul outlines in Colossians 3:12-15. Write down your own first step in practical terms.

3. Examine your present condition, and make a plan to promote grace and forgiveness, kindness and mercy. What is your office?

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Footnotes:

1. On Corrie Ten Boom and *The Hiding Place*. *The Hiding Place*

(https://www.amazon.com/Hiding-Place-Corrie-Ten-Boom/dp/0800794052/ref=sr_1_1?adgrpid=1333708169728547&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.qMOJks6UfjaKJHqI3ZvCumL2K0Xff86PTt13NeYYIILy8t1gnt8bAJ7fUzX6wTfZx9gpC3k1oPY52KYNid_cJNWkMLxSWJiJslcT-vI2H699fOGeCE3ezjVop6mtPbQpuusYrtDdU1QctvfxZH90VCYjFVFUbsXEGKGdeT7IH9nTDE_Ddgb5zzWB0q-VcKDRzAzGZ8DKXG9gYob1J30kwvfkTLgHG9AJ7WHxljMeR_A.DJMI9r1SUHpvslkms7B2VQTDMILEAp6DCjijXhdst8M&dib_tag=se&hvadid=83356909955449&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlcophy=104460&hvnetw=o&hvgmt=e&hvtargid=kwd-83357107949416%3Aloc-190&hydadcr=24633_13493391&keywords=the+hiding+place+book&mcid=85d625c54f5d390d9b73263832d506ec&qid=1740947191&sr=8-1) is the autobiography of Corrie Ten Boom and her family, who rescued and hid Jews in Haarlem, the Netherlands during the holocaust. Corrie was the sole survivor, and, miraculously released, returned from Ravensbrück, the concentration camp, to tell her story. Her book was translated into a successful movie by Billy Graham films in the late seventies, while she was still alive. It can be seen for free on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/-zNDe30_eKw?si=Bk9_x3-ce3D_JwN8

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (Scripture—Copy the scripture. / Observation—Write what you see. / Application—What is God saying? / Prayer—What is your response?) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Matthew 6:12-15
Tuesday: Luke 6:37-38
Wednesday: Ephesians 4:31-32
Thursday: Colossians 3:12-15
Friday: Romans 12:14-21
Saturday: Revelation 12:10-11
Sunday: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.