I believe the following message from Joyce Meyer is a problem that I have, and since it is possible that I am not alone with these feelings I felt compelled to post it. The hearing of this message really affected me personally and opened my eyes to some realities about my own short-comings. I hope by sharing it with my church family others can be affected by it as well, so here it is in my words.

**“Un-forgiveness” – again**

During a session in Tulsa, OK Joyce said, and I truly believe she is correct, that some events in our lives are allowed by God to take place in order that we can be taught a very important lesson, but since the trials are always viewed as negative occurrences in our lives we fail to put it in a proper perspective. We should realize it for what it is and enthusiastically confront the trials head-on for what they are, a chance to grow personally and socially, instead of saying “woe is me” or casting blame elsewhere. The truth is the fact that we don’t confront and completely deal with the problems we face every day is the very reason that many of us struggle with anger and carry emotional baggage that may strike out at any moment and hit an innocent, or not so innocent in some cases, friend or family member right over the head like a barrage of cannon fire. Remember also that almost all of the problems we face every day cannot be faced without turning to God for help, and sometimes the problem can’t be faced at all by us and we have to leap out in faith and turn it over to God to handle, which is exactly what He wants us to do. Because our problems aren’t dealt with properly from the get go they never really go away, even after the visible effects have disappeared and life seems to be normal once again, instead they fester like a deep wound, unseen to the naked eye, and become an ugly growth within us that is made even more difficult to be rid of. We become a different person when we harbor the daily multiplying little growths within us that affects not only us, but also those people that we encounter in everyday life.

**Matthew 5:8** – *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

**Proverbs 4:23** – *Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the sources of life.*

These two verses teach us that we are to have pure hearts in order that we can have a close and personal relationship with God. We can’t have pure hearts as long as we have multiple festering wounds of pride, bitterness, hate, and anger etc. living within us. These elements of our lives throw up a huge wall that gets in our way of not only having a good healthy relationship with God, but it also hurts our relationships with others. The sad thing about this is that most of us don’t even realize we carry all of the baggage we are carrying, and so we don’t believe we have issues that need to be worked out and handed over to God.

Ask yourself this question “Who am I really mad at when I get offended and hurt?” sometimes in order to answer that question you have to answer this question “Do I sometimes feel like a failure?” step back, or pause a second and think about that, I mean really think about it. Is it possible that you, like me, are more easily offended than you should be due to the fact that hidden nerves attached to some festering wound of the past is being pierced like a nail getting hit square on the head by a well aimed hammer, rather than out of a true intent to harm you from sometimes a well intended friend or loved one? Is it possible that your own feelings of unworthiness and low self-esteem are the true culprit behind your actions of resentment? You may have a problem of un-forgiveness, but this feeling is aimed at yourself rather than at another.

Let’s take a look at how we can heal the festering wounds within us and finally have peace with ourselves, resulting in healthier relationships with God, friends and family.

**2 Corinthians 12:9, 10** - *But he said to me, “My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” So then, I will boast most gladly about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may reside in me. Therefore I am content with my weaknesses, with insults, with troubles, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.*

Those two verses are so beautiful, and quickly becoming among my most favorite verses in the Bible. When I think about them in light of the festering wounds within all of us the meaning for them seems to become clearer to me. God loves us unconditionally and we can take that to the bank. Our value comes from God alone and nothing in this world, including our failings, can change that. All we have to do is walk in the faith that He is in control of our lives. We can be comfortable with whom we are. Your quality of life depends upon you forgiving yourself and allowing the love of God to flow through you to others.

**Matthew 6:12-15** - *and forgive us our debts, as we ourselves have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

**Matthew 24:10-12** – *Then many will be led into sin, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will appear and deceive many, and because lawlessness will increase so much, the love of many will grow cold.*

If we can’t learn to forgive, we cannot fulfill God’s will, and as the two verses above state we will be led into the trap Satan has set for us. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to be one of whom these verses describe. I don’t want my love to grow cold, because if I allow that to happen then I am no longer fighting for God, but instead I am fighting for Satan. If we forgive even ourselves then we can be confident that God is in control and we have nothing to worry about.

Remember that you can’t give what you don’t have. If you don’t love yourself, with a healthy forgiving nature, then you can’t love others, and that after all is to be our main goal as Christians.

To finish I want to say emphatically that I love each and every one of you, even if sometimes I don’t show it, and I have said it before, but I feel it is worthy of repeating, thanks so much for playing such a major part in my life of growing up as a Christian, because without you I am afraid I would still be doing what Satan wants me to be doing and not what God has planned for me. I still have a long way to go, but with your help I have begun the trip. You have been such a blessing to me that now I am excited to see what the future will bring instead of dreading it.