

Love Is Forgiving Towards Those Who Hurt Us

When Love Breaks Through, Part 6

1 Corinthians 13:5b

I. Instead Of Clogging Our Memories With Resentments, Clear The Cache

- A. Resentment Gives Us The _____ Of Telling Those Who Hurt Us That We Are Right
- B. Resentment Gives Us The _____ Of Telling Those Who Hurt Us That They Are Wrong
- C. Resentment Gives Us The _____ Of Self-Destruction As We Become The Ultimate Victim
- Unforgiveness Disobeys Christ's Command (Eph 4:32; Mt 6:15)
 - Unforgiveness Defeats Your Prayer Life (Mk 11:25)
 - Unforgiveness Destroys Your Worship (Mt 5:23-24)
 - Unforgiveness Defiles Our Heart (Heb 12:15)

II. Instead Of Compiling Injuries, Release The Debt (Acts 7:60; Isa 44:22; Acts 3:19)

- A. Forgiveness Is A _____ Of A Debt Resulting From An Injury (Col 2:13-14)
- B. Forgiveness Grants A Full _____, Not A Probation (2 Cor 2:7)
- C. Forgiveness Comes In Two Stages
- **Positional Forgiveness:** "Positional forgiveness is unconditional and is a commitment you make to God." (Ken Sande, *Peacemakers*, p. 190) Mt 11:25; Lk 6:28; Acts 7:60
 - **Transactional Forgiveness:** "Transactional forgiveness is conditional on the repentance of the offender and takes place between you and that person." (Sande, p. 191) Lk 17:3-5

III. Instead Of Keeping Score, Remove The Record Of Wrong (1 Cor 13:5; cf. Gen 41:51; Ps 130:3-4)

- A. _____ On God's Power To Release Past Hurts (Gen 41:51)
- B. _____ The Weapon Of Past Hurts (Acts 7:60; Isa 54:4-5)
- C. _____ The Scorecard Of Past Hurts (Ps 130:3-4)

IV. Instead Of Only Being The Receiver Of Forgiveness, Dispense What We've Received (Eph 4:32; Mt 18:32-33)

- A. _____ The Forgiveness You've Received From God (Eph 4:32; Mt 18:32-33)
- B. Move _____ From Past Hurts (Isa 38:17; Phil 3:13-14)
- C. Click The _____ Button – Erase It! (Isa 44:22; Acts 3:19; Ps 103:12)
- D. Clear Out Your Long-Term _____ (Jer 31:34; Micah 7:19; 1 Jn 1:9)

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1 Corinthians 13:4-5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, **it keeps no record of wrongs.** (NIV)

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, **it keeps no record of wrongs.** (NIV)

ESV: "resentful"

Amplified: "It takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]."

NASB: "Does not take into account a wrong suffered"

Phillips: "Love does not keep account of evil."

NEB: "Love keeps no score of wrongs."

- There is a definite article (the) before the word evil/wrong. It is not a general evil, but a particular evil/wrong done to us.
- The one that causes resentment.
- We're sinned against every day

I. Instead Of Clogging Our Memories With Resentments, Clear The Cache

- Sometimes our computers slow down because there is too much memory being used. Then you need to clean out the memory and clear the cache because the computer doesn't work very well.
- Sometimes the computer crashes because the memory gets too full.
- Ie/ A man complained to a friend that every time he and wife got into an argument, she always get "historical." His friend queried, "Don't you mean 'hysterical.'"" The man replied, "No, 'historical,' because she is always bringing up all the things from the past that I've done wrong."
- "Love does not perform the bookkeeper's task of maintaining a careful accounting of each time it is wronged. Human nature often keeps such a record with a view to future reprisals when opportunities for revenge present themselves, but love stores up no such resentment and bears no such malice." (Robert Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, p. 74)
- "If we love someone we must forfeit the right to be 'historical.' No one has the right to go on archaeological expeditions into the past and dredge up garbage." (Joe Aldrich, *Love For All your Worth*, p. 97)
- "Resentment is yesterday's irritation scratched into the sensitive membranes of our memory. It is yesterday's hurt grown up into today's indignation. Planted and tended in our memory,

the thorn that first pricked us now stabs away at our peace. Memories of minor hurts become major resentments." (Lewis Smedes, *Love Within Limits*, p. 67)

A. **Resentment Gives Us The Pleasure Of Telling Those Who Hurt Us That We Are Right**

- "We remember the hurts so that we can *enjoy* the pain of yesterday over and over again. We keep it alive for the pleasure we can get from our resentment against the one who hurts us." (Lewis Smedes, *Love Within Limits*, p. 67)

B. **Resentment Gives Us The Power Of Telling Those Who Hurt Us That They Are Wrong**

- Resentment empowers us to plot revenge
- We rehearse our hurt like we memorize the lines of a song or a play
- Or we should be using our memory to remember Scripture verbatim
- Resentment gives us a false entitlement to overreact against our spouse, kids, parents

- ie/ Gary Inrig, *Forgiveness*, tells the story of a man bitten by a dog which is later found to be rabid. This man was taken to the hospital for a battery of tests. The doctor, unfortunately, had to inform this man that he had rabies. Being the early days of medicine when there was no cure, this patient was told by the doctor to get his affairs in order because he couldn't cure him. The man sunk in despair, but later gained the energy to ask for a pen and made a list of names. When the doctor returned, he commended the patient for being so diligent in preparing a will. The patient responded, rabidly, "This ain't no will. This is a list of people I'm going to bite before I die."

- **Insecurity** makes us fearful that if we forgive we're just going to get hurt again by that person

- **Revenge** keeps us from forgiveness because we don't want the other person to get off the hook when we've suffered so much.

- **Self-Pity** tells us that we've been hurt more than anyone - there is no strength left to forgive

- **Bitterness** does not believe that your hurt can ever be repaired. Yet the grudge you hold actually holds you as the prisoner.

- **Pride** says "Why should I forgive unless that person comes groveling on their knees back to me?" By saying that some person is unworthy of forgiveness is to elevate yourself above another.

- **Exhaustion** questions "70 times 7? Are you kidding?" When will this ever end?

- Thomas Takashi Tanemori :
http://www.forgivenessday.org/wfa_celebration_1999/tanemori01.htm

- For me, a survivor of the Hiroshima atom bomb, known as a 'hibakusha', the bomb had taken everything. I lost six members of my immediate family, including both my parents. I was 8 years old and at 7/10th of a mile from Ground Zero. My childhood was annihilated, my dignity crushed in the rubble of post war Japan. The Atomic ashes forced my journey with rage and hatred. When I was 18, fate forced me to seek a new life in America. In my formative years my life was controlled by the emotion of revenge and this need for vengeance fueled my every action. To revenge I worked, by revenge I slept, and for revenge I had to survive. Vengeance, my old friend, my old enemy, and my constant comfort companion, held me together. My struggled for decades to overcome my obsession with vengeance and return home to honor my family name became my "master". All I wanted was to destroy those who'd done this to me; American people must suffer as I.
- Spent time in a psychiatric ward
- Then picked fruit for "the enemy"
- Mrs. Mary Furr, middle age, an American nurse, who placed herself and her own profession at risk by giving her heart and tender love.
- Her kind of love later led me to Jesus - the white man's God!
- Then, I heard the voice: "Iniquity of a father will be visited upon the children, even unto the third and fourth generation to come. . . ."
- How could I, as a father, act irresponsibly to cause the visitation of Judgment upon my children and their children? They are innocent from the guilt of crime that they had no part. There is no telling what society would do to them, after I committed irreconcilable and irreversible acts of revenge. What will I say to my parent's spirit if I caused my innocent children to suffer? I cried out for the answer! How I despair this cursed fate of mine. As bitterness poisons these innocent children of mine, I madly waste way in this world of 'Revenge.' Is there any 'Balm in the Gilead'?
- Recompense to no man evil for evil ... Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.' Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink.- for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."
- I struggled as I faced these truths. I saw myself naked and without pretense. I am at the crossroads. Must I not ask Ishi no "Ojizo-san " which way that I should turn? My soul is on the justice teeter-totter, teetering between two opinions: Revenge or Forgiveness. Nevertheless, it is genocide of the human race if we are to continue on the road of repeated revenge! Yet, in the deepest chamber of my soul, I was still crying out silently for revenge. Must I not fulfill the vow I made over my father's grave? But, I know now that I would be followed by an eternal burden unless I do something to change my heart. I can not afford to pass down the consequences of revenge to my children. I began to gain some enlightenment and human understanding.

C. Resentment Gives Us The Pain Of Self-Destruction As We Become The Ultimate Victim

- Studies reveal:
 - People who are more forgiving report fewer health and mental problems.
 - Forgiveness leads to fewer physical symptoms of stress.
 - Failure to forgive may be more important than hostility as a risk factor for heart disease.
 - People who blame other people for their troubles have higher incidence of illness such as

cardiovascular disease and cancer.

- People who imagine not forgiving someone show negative changes in blood pressure, muscle tension and immune response
- People who imagine forgiving their offenders note immediate improvement in their cardiovascular, muscular and nervous systems.
- People express a sense of improved spiritual well-being
- Even people with devastating losses can learn to forgive and feel better psychologically and emotionally.

(Dr. Fredric Luskin, *Forgive For Good*, Harper San Francisco, 2002)

- “The practice of forgiveness has been shown to reduce anger, hurt depression and stress and leads to greater feelings of hope, peace, compassion and self confidence. Practicing forgiveness leads to healthy relationships as well as physical health. It also influences our attitude which opens the heart to kindness, beauty, and love.” (Luskin, <http://www.learningtoforgive.com/steps.htm>)

1. Unforgiveness Disobeys Christ’s Command

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- Charles Swindoll: “Forgiveness is not an elective in the curriculum of servanthood. It is a required course, and the exams are always tough to pass.” (*Improving Your Serve*, p. 54)
- George MacDonald: “It may be infinitely worse to refuse to forgive than to murder, because the latter may be an impulse of a moment of heat; whereas the former is a cold and deliberate choice of the heart.”

2. Unforgiveness Defeats Your Prayer Life

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

3. Unforgiveness Destroys Your Worship

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

4. Unforgiveness Defiles Our Heart

Hebrews 12:15b ^{15b} Lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

- "I shall allow no man to belittle my soul by making me hate him." - Booker T. Washington
- Ken Sande, *Peacemakers*: If someone has sinned against you, part of their debt is also owed to you. This means you have a choice to make. You can either *take* payments on the debt or *make* payments. You can take or extract payments on a debt from others' sin in many ways by withholding forgiveness, by dwelling on the wrong, by being cold and aloof, by giving up on the relationship, by inflicting emotional pain, by gossiping, by lashing back or by seeking revenge against the one who hurt you. These actions may provide a perverse pleasure for the moment, but the exact a high price from you in the long run." (pp. 207-208)

II. Instead Of Compiling Injuries, Release The Debt

Acts 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- he called it a sin, but released them from the debt
- we do not have the power to release them from the legal debt to the government, but we can release them from our personal penalties we have imposed against them

Examples of our self-imposed penalties:

- Silent treatment
- Alienation
- Grudge
- Curse words

Examples of judicial penalties:

- Grounding the teenager for a week, but acceptance is constant
- Spanking the rebellious child, but love is continuous
- Jail time for the offender's crime, but bitterness is put aside
- Forgiveness Deletes Records (Isa 44:22; Acts 3:19; Ps 103:12)

Isaiah 44:22 I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

1 Corinthians 13: Love keeps no record of wrong

Exploding Myths Concerning Forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness Is Not A Feeling

- "Forgiveness is not a feeling. It is an act of the will. Forgiveness involves a decision not to think or talk about what someone has done, and God calls us to make this decisions regardless of our feelings." (Sande, p. 187)

- Forgiveness is the act of accounting or recording history. 1 Corinthians 13:5 instructs us that "love keeps no record of wrong"
- Forgiveness is the releasing of a debt, not the removal of hurt.

2. Forgiveness Is Not Earned

- If this were so, we'd all still be bound to hell.
- Yet we feel the offender must beg, grovel or learn a lesson before we forgive them.

3. Forgiveness Is Not Turning Your Back On The Situation

- Stephen in Acts 7:60 when he was being stoned to death "Lord do not charge them with this sin." He called it a sin, but released them from the debt
- "Forgiveness is taking seriously the awfulness of what has happened when you are treated unfairly. Forgiveness is not pretending that things are other than the way they are." (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)
- "Forgiving doesn't mean ignoring an injustice or letting someone treat you badly. Remember that it's not a wimp's response. It takes a strong, courageous effort to make that move. Letting go of your grudges takes a great deal of moral muscle." (Charlotte vanOyen Wilvliet, Psychology Professor, Hope College, quoted in Zest Magazine, October 2000)

4. Forgiving Does Not Mean It Is Forgotten

- erasing from memory isn't forgetting means here
- never using the past sin against you is what forgetting means in light of forgiveness
- "Forgiveness does not equal forgetting. It is about healing the memory of the harm, not erasing it." Dr. Ken Hart, as quoted in Zest Magazine (UK), October 2000.
- The offense is permanently filed in your life's history, but forgiveness forbids the offense to dominate or control your life.

5. Forgiveness Does Not Condone The Offense

- Joseph pointed out that his brothers meant evil – he did not condone their sin
- Stephen – "do not charge them with this sin" – he called the crowd's murderous act a sin, not condoning their actions, but he released the spiritual and emotional debt of the offense

6. Forgiveness Does Not Keep Score Of How Much We Forgive

- Peter brought out a score card when asking how often he should forgive an offender – up to 7x?

- Malcolm Forbes: "Keeping score of old scores and scars, getting even and one-upping, always makes you less than you are."

7. **Forgiveness Does Not Absolve Any Restitution Or Justice**

- If someone breaks a window or runs into your car, there should be payment
- Forgiveness doesn't demand emotional restitution or restitution that will remove a grudge or bitterness

8. **Forgiveness Does Not Mean You Won't Feel The Hurt**

9. **Forgiveness Does Not Prevent The Offense From Ever Being Repeated**

- "Forgiveness is not a magic trick that allows us to control other people." (Robert D. Enright)

What Is Forgiveness?

A. **Forgiveness Is A Cancellation Of A Debt Resulting From An Injury**

Colossians 2:13-14 ¹³And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- Charles Stanley: "*Forgiveness* is 'the act of setting someone free from an obligation to you that is a result of a wrong done against you.'" (*Forgiveness*, p. 16)

B. **Forgiveness Grants A Full Pardon, Not A Probation**

2 Corinthians 2:7 So that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

- There is a time to forgive. A lengthy period of unforgiveness causes grief and defeat in the offender.
- Once forgiveness is given, the offense is not brought up again.

C. **Forgiveness Comes In Two Stages**

1. **Positional Forgiveness:** "Positional forgiveness is unconditional and is a commitment you make to God." (Sande, p. 190)

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Luke 6:28 Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

Acts 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- "You promise to strive to maintain a loving and merciful attitude toward someone who has offended you. It is a decision to make the first promise of forgiveness, which means you will not dwell on the hurtful incident or seek vengeance or retribution in thought, word, or action. Instead, by God's grace you will keep yourself in a 'position of forgiveness' in which you pray for the other person and are ready to pursue complete reconciliation as soon as he or she repents. This attitude will protect you from bitterness and resentment, even if the other person takes a long time to repent." (Sande, pp. 190-191)

- 2. Transactional Forgiveness:** "Transactional forgiveness is conditional on the repentance of the offender and takes place between you and that person." (Sande, p. 191)

Luke 17:3-5 ³Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." ⁵And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

- "Both stages of forgiveness were vividly demonstrated by God. When Christ died on the cross, he took on the position of forgiveness, maintaining an attitude of love and mercy toward those who put him to death. 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' (Luke 23:34). At Pentecost, the Father's answer to Jesus' prayer was revealed. Three thousand people heard Peter's Pentecost message...as they repented of their sin, the transaction of forgiveness was completed, and they were fully reconciled to God. (Acts 2:36-41)." (Sande, p. 191)
- ie/ George Wilson, a postal clerk, went "postal" – he robbed a train and killed a guard. He was arrested, convicted and condemned to hang. With some lack of solid evidence hanging over the case, President Jackson entered into the picture. Upon reviewing the case, he offered a pardon.

George Wilson was a bitter man, hating even the President. So he refused the pardon. This was the first time anyone ever refused a Presidential Pardon, so it went to the Supreme Court to see if this could be done.

Chief Justice John Marshall read the following decision: "A pardon is a parchment whose only value must be determined by the receiver of the pardon. It has no value apart from that which the receiver gives to it." Thus, as Wilson's pardon was rejected, the transaction of the pardon could not be complete. Wilson was hanged for the full penalty of murder.

III. Instead Of Keeping Score, Remove The Record Of Wrong (1 Cor 13:5; cf. Gen 41:51; Ps 130:3-4)

ie/ Clara Barton - founder of Red Cross, known for not holding resentment

- friend recalled a cruel thing that happened against her
- friend: "Don't you remember the wrong that was done you?"
- Clara: "No, I distinctly remember forgetting that

ie/ Counseling a couple going through a divorce – she gave me a 30 page report on all he had done to her since they started dating

A. Depend On God's Power To Release Past Hurts (Gen 41:51)

Genesis 41:51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

- Joseph named 1st born Manasseh - Hebrew for "forget"
- "And Joseph named the first-born Manasseh ... for God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."

B. Drop The Weapon Of Past Hurts (Acts 7:60; Isa 54:4-5)

Acts 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- he called it a sin, but released them from the debt
- we do not have the power to release them from the legal debt to the government, but we can release them from our personal penalties we have imposed against them

Examples of our self-imposed penalties:

- Silent treatment
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- Curse words

Examples of judicial penalties:

- Grounding the teenager for a week, but acceptance is constant
- Spanking the rebellious child, but love is continuous
- Jail time for the offender's crime, but bitterness is put aside

Isaiah 54:4-5 ⁴"Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. ⁵For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

C. Delete The Scorecard Of Past Hurts (Ps 130:3-4)

Psalm 130:3-4 ³If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

- Four Promises: (Ken Sande, *The PeaceMakers*, pp. 189-190)

1. Not to dwell on the incident;
 2. Not to bring up the incident again as a weapon;
 3. Not to discuss the incident with others;
 4. Not to allow the incident to hinder the relationship.
- Marlene Dietrich: "Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast."
 - Confucius: "To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it."
 - Norman Cousins: "Do you prefer that you be right or happy?"

IV. Instead Of Only Being The Receiver Of Forgiveness, Dispense What We've Received (Eph 4:32; Mt 18:32-33)

A. Reciprocate The Forgiveness You've Received From God (Eph 4:32; Mt 18:32-33)

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 18:32-33 "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'"

B. Move Forward From Past Hurts (Isa 38:17; Phil 3:13-14)

Isaiah 38:17 You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

- This verse provides a visually lucid picture of someone disposing of garbage. The intention is not to see the garbage being disposed, but to *not* see it while it is disposed.

Philippians 3:13-14 ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

C. Click The Delete Button – Erase It! (Isa 44:22; Acts 3:19; Ps 103:12)

Isaiah 44:22 I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

- You don't know much about computers to know that you don't erase your mistakes with liquid paper. Your "Delete button" or erasing your "Recycle Bin" is quite a complete removal.

Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us

- These directions are infinite goals. You can head east, but you'll never arrive at east.
- That's how far God has removed our sins!
- Charles Spurgeon: "He will really pardon. The forgiveness is valid, it is valid on earth in the court of conscience, and above in the court of heaven. The pardoned sinner is truly pardoned, and no one shall ever condemn him. His sin is not merely supposed to be gone, it is gone. It is not put a little away off from him, but 'as far as the east is from the west, so far hat he removed our transgression from us.'" ("Abundant Pardon," *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, 1874, p. 548)

D. Clear Out Your Long-Term Storage (Jer 31:34; Micah 7:19; 1 Jn 1:9)

Jeremiah 31:34 I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more

- God is omniscient, so of course the knowledge of the fact of our sins is never eradicated from His memory. Yet He comforts us by promising us not to recall to memory our past sins to be used against us
- Sometimes spouses in an argument do the bad habit of GUNNYSACKING, which is putting past grievances in gunnysack and pouring it out all at once in a verbal argument. Ie/ "Remember when you did this 5 years ago, 3 months ago and last week...."

Micah 7:19 You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea

- Though they found the remains of the Titanic in deep water, God irretrievably cast our sins in even deeper water.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion:

- Laurie Beyer, "Beauty From Ashes," http://www.justbetweenus.org/12_01/interview.html
- Kay was born in 1933 in a godly, Christian home, but failed to recognize that Christianity was more than the result of being born in the United States and going to church.
- She was religious, but did not understand what it meant to be a Christian
- She became engaged to an athlete and engineer, Frank Thomas Goetz, Jr. (Tom)
- "He gave her a huge diamond ring, and their engagement announcement on the front page of the society page gave her instant status. He most certainly was her Prince Charming.
- "Kay and Tom were blessed with two precious sons, but her marriage was far from perfect. Battling with depression, he was unable to find stability in a career. As much as Tom had going for himself, Kay could not understand why he struggled. She wanted to enjoy life, even

if it meant doing so on her own. Taking up modeling, she remembers, 'I had a mink, I had money and I was miserable.'

- "Kay admits that she did not love her husband unconditionally. Neither had she tried to understand him. She wanted to be happy. She wanted her needs satisfied. Only later did Kay really realize that wasn't what love was about. Seeking the guidance of their minister, they were advised to divorce. Regretfully, Kay recalls that the Word of God was never even opened in that counseling session. After just six years, their marriage came to an end.
- "She began seeking comfort in other men, at one point having a two-year relationship with a married man. Going from one man to the next, she was always looking for someone, anyone who would unconditionally love her.
- Then, suddenly, one day she became aware of the emptiness in the life she was leading. "I realized that someday I would stand before a holy God and He would say, 'Depart from Me!'" At first she decided she would try to be good, but the good she wanted to do she couldn't do. "The evil that I didn't want to do, I did. I thought, 'if I could just erase my past. If I could just have a new start.'"
- At a party one evening in 1963, a friend said to Kay, "Why don't you quit telling God what you want and tell Him that Jesus Christ is all you need?" The next morning, Kay stood before God and said, "God, I don't care what you do to me. I don't care if I never see another man as long as I live. I don't care if you paralyze me from the neck down. I don't care what you do to my two boys." Those were the worst things she could conceive of having happen to her. "God, if you'll just give me peace!" God at that moment gave Kay Arthur the Prince of Peace, His Son, Jesus Christ. He called her "Beloved" when she knew there was nothing lovely about her. "I went down on my knees a harlot, and I got up a saint."