

BITTER ROOT JUDGMENTS & INNER VOWS

What are bitter roots or bitter root judgments: Hebrews 12:15

- Our sinful reactions to hurt
- Critical, condemning judgments of people Matthew 7:1-2
- Refusal or inability to forgive someone
- Operations of the unchangeable law or God which causes us to reap what we have sown Galatians 6:7-8
- Contain the power to defile many, including ourselves, causing us to drink “poison” instead of nourishment Romans 2:1-2

Bitter roots are not:

- The hurtful or terrible things that happen to us
- The sins of those who have wronged us
- Powerful enough to overcome the free will of another

A bitter root expectancy is:

- Attitudes or practiced ways of thinking which expect the worst from others & ourselves
- Habits of self-fulfilling prophecy, by which we push people to fulfill our picture of the ways things will go. [When relationships or circumstances turn out as we expect, our negative thinking is confirmed, and we may fail to realize how we may invite others to hurt us.]
- Based on the specific judgments made most often against father and mother:
 - “Women will always be controlling
 - “Men can’t be trusted.”
 - “No one ever listens to me.”
- Expectancies are psychological

Healing for bitter root judgments:

- Recognition: seeing sinful patterns and how they affect one’s life Luke 6:43-44
- Repentance: choosing change; determining to stop patterns by acknowledging judgments and bring them and their expectations to death on the cross in prayer.
- Confession: allows us to be fully known before God, in our brokenness and sin, so that He can heal and change us.

If it was in relationship that we were wounded, it is in relationship that God designs for us to be healed. By addressing the root system in our lives, we can take stock of the nurture that we have been drawing from. Example: When people wanting ministry come with marriage problems, it is almost always 50-50. A wife will most likely do to her husband that for which he bitterly judged his mother for, and the wife will most likely reap through her husband the very thing she judged her father for. It is painful when a couple begins to discover hidden things about one another; many conclude they’ve made a mistake and married the wrong person. But God did not design our mates to make us comfortable; rather, we tend to marry someone “designed to grind (as iron sharpens iron),” someone who triggers whatever we have stored in our hearts. As we take our sins to the cross, we can enter into blessed relationship with our mates and others, fulfilling God’s will for transformation in our lives.

Further reading: “Transformation of the Inner Man” John Sanford

1. What pattern or patterns can you identify as being similar to your family of origin?
2. Is your partner anything like your father?
3. Is your relationship similar in any way to the relationship you experienced between your mother and father?
4. Do you remember having any judgments about how your father treated you?
5. Was your father affectionate? Did your father ever give you attention?