

Foreword

I first met Reinhard in January 1992 in England at a pastors and leaders conference. There was an immediate connection in the Spirit, and even though we were on separate continents for more than a decade, we still kept in contact with each other. I was very excited when he told me he was moving to the United States.

If there is one sentence to describe Reinhard, it would be that his zeal for the Lord and the Kingdom of God is infectious. I think you will feel that in this book. He has a real passion for Jesus and for God's Kingdom to come here on earth.

In our own pursuit of passion for Jesus and doing our best to love Him as He deserves, we sometimes find hindrances in our lives that keep us from getting as close to Him as both He and we desire. There seems to be a lot of confusion in our lives and frustration as to why this is so. And indeed there is more than one answer to this ever-pervasive question in the Body of Christ.

THE POWER TO FORGIVE

Reinhard addresses one very good reason for our lack of nearness to Him, and sometimes even our own sense of loneliness.

Reinhard is not just teaching something out of the Bible, although there is nothing wrong with that. In my opinion, he is very qualified to do so. But in this book he is teaching something from the Word *and* experience. These are issues that he has personally worked through with the Lord. And in his work as a preacher, teacher, youth leader, and counselor, he has had hundreds of conversations with old and young alike who have shown him just how prevalent this problem is in our society. In fact, there seems to be no difference between race, gender, age, or even whether a person is a believer or not. Everybody faces hurts, rejections, or offenses at least one time in their lives. And most people do not know how to deal with these issues of the heart.

You may even be in a situation right now where you need to find a way out of the agony you are feeling in your heart that you don't know what to do with, or who to turn to with such deep, intimate pain. This book, of course, is not even suggesting taking the place of professional counseling, where and when such is warranted, but sometimes we may think a problem is bigger or more complicated than it really is. We should always first try taking little steps before we try to jump to the bigger ones. Even though this book may represent a "little step" to inner healing, it will definitely produce big results.

Or you may need this book just to make sure that your heart *is* clean before the Lord and that you are not robbing yourself of the blessings He wants to give you due to blockages from your side of your relationship with Him. In ridding ourselves of blockages, we will not only clean the channel between us and the Lord for our own blessings but also to be the blessing for others He has intended for us, which is where we find true fulfillment in this life.

Whatever your reason for picking up this book, I am sure you will be blessed by reading it and keeping it close by, even if only for

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the time in the future when you *will* be offended. As Jesus states in Luke 17:1, “It is inevitable that offenses will come...” This book helps us be prepared for just such a time as that. It will give you the necessary warfare to “Fight the good fight of faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

Seeking together to know Him more,

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