



Open Arms Evangelistic Ministries



Reaching the World Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ

### From Bitter To Better

**“Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamour, contention) and slander (evil –speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you with all malice (spite, ill will, or basement of any kind). And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another (readily and freely), as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:31-32**

**Bitter means “with strong feelings of hatred or dislike; full of sorrow, pain and discomfort.” Better means “above another, as in worth or ability; more excellent, more fit, more desirable.” There is a great difference between the two words. Bitterness as revealed in the scripture above is truly not a characteristic of the Believer. Please allow me to note some major differences between bitter and better.**

**Satan will always wish for you to be bitter; whereas God will always wish for you to be better. Bitterness feeds off past experience, but better enhances your future in Jesus. Bondage is a nature of bitter; whereas better in Christ brings freedom. Satan is forever tempting us to be bitter, thus separating us from the full blessings of the Lord.**

**Paul instructs us to watch for one another that bitterness not overtake us. Hebrews 12:14-15 states: “Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will see the Lord. Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look (after one another), to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God’s grace, in order that no root of resentment (bitterness or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it.” The Bible and Paul warns us of the dangers of bitterness. It will contaminate our very soul and spirit.**

**Satan is ever trying to plant the seeds of bitterness in peoples’ lives. The greater the roots, the harder it is to remove the plant whether good or bad. Bitterness only makes us weeds in Satan’s filthy rotten landfill. Better will make us like trees in Jesus planted by the waters. Psalm 1:3 says, “And he (the believer) shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”**

**Bitter is forever holding a grudge, while better offers forgiveness to us and others. Vengeance is a demand of bitterness; but better embraces restoration. Vengeance to the believer belongs to the Lord. Bitter says, “no one understands.” Better says, “God know all things.” Bitter is ever tearing down, while better is lovingly exalting and building up. Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding are constantly being blocked by the wall of bitterness. Better seeks after the mind of God to know Him and His way.**

**Bitterness is strongly influenced by emotions of anger and resentment. Better will keep one’s emotions in check so as not to be controlled by them. It is so easy to see and understand that bitterness is unmistakably a characteristic of Satan. To be better is to be like Christ and follow His example. Bitterness has even caused sickness to come upon many who are held in its grip. Better is life in Christ who is LIFE more abundantly.**

**So which will you choose, my beloved? Bitter or Better? So many today are suffering due to bitterness. They are held captive by this demonic force that is slowly eating away at their very existence. Their minds are filled with cancerous thoughts of past hurts and wrongdoings. Their spirits are so contaminated with resentment that the Holy Spirit is not allowed to speak or direct. Only God and His Word can break the spirit of bitterness in someone’s life.**

**Romans 12:21 says, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

**Galatians 6:10 says, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”**

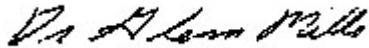
**Proverbs 16:32 says, “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”**

**James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”**

**Ephesians 5:8 says, “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”**

**The main difference between bitter and better is the letter “I.” It is not situations or circumstances that make or break us, but, rather, it is our perception of them. God has given us the power through Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and His Word to overcome every situation. Jesus even warned us that offences would come. So, expect them, and do not be moved by them. Cast your every care upon God for He careth for you.**

**The sooner we remove the “I,” the sooner our bitter can become better.**



**Dr. Glenn Mills**