

VICTORY OVER FAILURES WORKSHEET (I John 5:4-5)

(if applicable) Name of person I have failed to love God's way my Mother

(1) My specific unbiblical thoughts, words, and actions (Matthew 7:1-5)	(2) "Put off" and biblical reference(s) (Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:5-9)	(3) "Put on" and biblical reference(s) (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10-17)	(4) My plan not to repeat this sin and to respond biblically instead (Titus 2:11-14)
<p>I have failed to completely forgive my mother for not being what I think a mother should be. When she died in 1999, I realized that I still have quite a lot of anger and bitterness toward her. I don't dwell on the thought of her, but when certain things come up that remind me of her, I get upset. I think to myself, "How could you die without ever acknowledging your own sinful behaviors! How could you!!! How dare you!!! I have waited for years and years to hear you say that you were sorry, and you decided to go and drink yourself to death. You absolute selfish wretch!!!" I am usually quite cold when speaking of her, because to forgive her means that I have to admit some things that I don't want to. She was a drunk. She was a cheater. She was a liar. She was a fornicator. She was a child molester. She was my mother. These are hard things to admit especially since I am a mother, too. I guess I'm afraid of being judged by her sins.</p>	<p>Unforgiving spirit</p> <p>Anger, Bitterness (Ephesians 4:31)</p> <p>Unwholesome thinking</p> <p>Self-focus (Philippians 2:3-4)</p>	<p>Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)</p> <p>Tenderheartedness (Ephesians 4:32)</p> <p>Godly thinking (Philippians 4:8)</p> <p>Love for God and others (Philippians 2:3-4)</p>	<p>PATTERNS: Self-focus, unforgiving spirit</p> <p>My basic plan for overcoming my unforgiving spirit is to think, speak and act biblically in order to become more and more Christ-like every day and to train myself (by reason of use) to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:14)</p> <p>Think biblically.</p> <p>When thinking of my mother, I will remember that God chose to use her as a vessel to bring me into this world. It is not up to me to know why, but it is up to me to be thankful for my life, and for anything in my life that has brought me to this point. Though we were not in church, my mother was the one who laid the groundwork for my salvation. She was the one who first told me about Jesus. I can remember thinking of how wonderful heaven must be. If I hadn't had that picture of Christ in my mind, I may have rejected Him years later instead of accepting Him as my Lord and Saviour. I will remember that my mother was a sinner, just like I am and that just because her sins are different than mine, it doesn't make her sins worse or my sins better. If we sin in one area, we are guilty of all (James 2:10). I will read Ezekiel 18 to remind my self that I am only responsible for my own sins.</p>
<p>I have also blamed her for my own failures as a mother. "If I would have had a better teacher, I would know how to deal with this situation. If she had been someone I could have turned to for advice, this would be so much easier. If she wouldn't have yelled at us so much, maybe I wouldn't yell at my kids."</p>	<p>Unforgiving spirit</p> <p>Blameshifting (Matthew 7:1-4)</p> <p>Self-focus (Philippians 2:3-4)</p>	<p>Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)</p> <p>Judging myself (Matthew 7:5)</p> <p>Love for God and others (Philippians 2:3-4)</p>	