

April 28, 2024 - Sunday a.m.

**“Submitting to a Personal Trainer”
(The Peter Series)**

God has a personal training program to bring us beyond our own _____ and into His _____!

1. Training to Avoid Unnecessarily _____ Others

Matthew 17:24-27a NLT

²⁴ *On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the Temple tax?”*

²⁵ *“Yes, he does,” Peter replied. Then he went into the house. But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, “What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?”*

²⁶ *“They tax the people they have conquered,” Peter replied. “Well, then,” Jesus said, “the citizens are free!*

²⁷ *However, we don’t want to offend them,...*

“When questions arise in life which do not involve _____ and conscience, we should be prepared to make concessions to the conscientious scruples of those whom we may be able to influence for good.”

“Where conscience is not concerned, we must be ready to meet any legitimate demand made by public use and custom.

In asserting our _____, we must not give needless offense.”

Matthew 15:6b-7a NIV; 11-14 NLT

^{6b} *...Thus you nullify the Word of God for the sake of your traditions.* ^{7a} *You hypocrites!...*

¹¹ *It’s not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth.”*

¹² *Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?”*

¹³ *Jesus replied, “Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted,*

¹⁴ *so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch.”*

Mark 6:2-5 NLT

² *The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?”*

³ *Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.*

⁴ *Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.”*

⁵ *And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.*

Proverbs 18:19 NKJ

A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

2. Training to Believe for Supernatural _____, When It Is Needed

Matthew 17:27 NLT

However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."

God will be faithful to fulfill His Word, as we take hold of enough faith to _____ and to follow through with His direction for us.

3. Training to _____ the Wrongs of Others

Matthew 18:21-31

²¹ *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*

²² *"No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"*

²³ *Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.*

²⁴ *When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.*

²⁵ *But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.*

²⁶ *The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

²⁷ *Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.*

²⁸ *"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'*

²⁹ *So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*

³⁰ *"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.*

³¹ *When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.*

"If I walk in the blindness of unforgiveness, I may not even be able to see it myself, but others can - and a _____ rises to God about it."

Matthew 18:32-35 NKJ

³² *Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.*

³³ *Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'*

³⁴ *And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.*

³⁵ *"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*

Forgiveness is not:

Based on the other person earning it or deserving it;

Dependent on us forgetting;

Giving approval to what has happened to you;

Justifying the offender;

Necessarily requiring reconciliation;

Automatically restoring trust.

God's commandment to forgive, becomes His promise to us as believers, to actually
_____ us to forgive.