Love Is Not Easily Angered and Keeps No Record of Wrongs
Corrie ten Boom

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1 Corinthians 13:5 “It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”



Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who, during the Second World War, helped her family hide Jewish people from the Nazis. Eventually, they were discovered and arrested. Corrie was sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where her beloved sister Betsie died. Her father also died following the family’s arrest.Corrie survived, but survival did not mean that the suffering was over, or that the memories simply disappeared.

After the war, Corrie travelled to Germany to speak about the forgiveness of God. In 1947, following a talk in a church in Munich, a man approached her. As he drew nearer, she recognised him as one of the guards from Ravensbrück. He had been part of the world in which she and Betsie had suffered humiliation, cruelty and unimaginable loss. Now he was standing in front of her.

Reflective questions — When have you been confronted by someone who has caused you deep hurt? What happened inside you when you saw them, heard their name, or were reminded of what they had done?

Reflective pause — 30 seconds

The former guard told Corrie that he had become a Christian. He said that he knew God had forgiven him for the terrible things he had done, but he wanted to hear forgiveness from her too. He asked her to forgive him. Corrie stood there, unable to reach out. She remembered the suffering, and her heart felt cold. She knew what she had preached about forgiveness, but now she was being asked to live it in a way that seemed almost impossible.

She later wrote that forgiveness was not an emotion, but an act of the will. Silently, she prayed to Jesus for help. Her prayer was simple: “I can lift my hand. You supply the feeling.”

And so, despite everything she felt, she reached out and took his hand.

Corrie described an extraordinary sensation of warmth flowing through her arm and into their joined hands. She understood this not as a triumph of her own strength, but as God’s love enabling her to do what she could not do alone. She forgave him, and later reflected that she had never known God’s love so intensely as in that moment.

Corrie’s story does not make the cruelty she endured any less terrible. Forgiveness does not mean pretending that evil did not happen, or saying that the hurt did not matter. Her story shows us something deeply challenging: sometimes love asks us to take a step that our feelings cannot yet follow, trusting God to meet us as we take it.

Reflective question — Is there someone who has hurt you whom you are struggling to forgive? Have you been asked to show love to someone who has caused you harm? Could you bring that situation to God today, asking him to give you the strength to take the next difficult step?

Reflective pause — 30 seconds

Let Corrie ten Boom’s example inspire you to embrace a love that is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs. Ask God to help you make that love part of your own life.