

# In SPIRIT and TRUTH

## THE OIL OF FORGIVENESS



IN RECOGNITION OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
AN INTERVIEW WITH A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

*Many years ago, 1998 to be exact, I was blessed to meet a remarkable woman with the testimony of history that must never be forgotten. She was 70 years old at the time, a Messianic Jew (a Jewish believer in Jesus as the Messiah), and one of the few remaining survivors of the Holocaust. After being healed from years of hurt and pain, she travelled to share her personal accounts of Hitler's attempt to annihilate a nation.*



Her name was Rose Feldman Price, born an Orthodox Jew in Poland, April 3, 1928. Rose was only 10 years old during World War II when she became separated from her family. She recalls, “the first thing that the Germans did, they threw all of the Jews out of school”. However, many of the Jewish children continued to attend their Hebrew schools in secret. Rose remembers coming home from school one day, only to find that her family had been taken out of their home and put into “The Ghetto” concentration camps for Jews; **this was only the beginning of the next five years of her life during the Holocaust, which she refers to as “hell on earth”.** Rose could not understand why. What had she done to deserve such inhumane treatment? She was only a child, but was being treated like a prisoner. “My only crime was that I was born Jewish.”

Rose recalls the day that she and her older sister were taken from The Ghetto and sent to work in the ammunition factory; (this was the same factory shown in the movie, *Schindler's List*). They were told that if they worked in the factory, their families would remain safe in the camp. However, she later learned that their families were immediately taken to death camps and killed.

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Rose Price spent five years in six different camps, where she was beaten with whips, starved, tortured, and experimented upon. She watched others drop dead around her, and believes that the only thing that kept her alive was the warmth from the dead bodies. Then there were the times when she was chosen to go before a firing squad to be shot. Twice, she miraculously managed to run away and escaped into the woods. As Rose continued on, one horror story after another, periodically she wept. It was obvious that the pain involved in stirring up



such memories from the past, at times, made it difficult for her to speak. As she took a moment to compose herself, the question was asked, “With so many others dying, why do you think you survived?” I myself wondered if it was because of her faith in God. Did she pray? Her response surprised me... “I had no faith, I gave up God. If God allowed such a hell for me, then there was no loving God”.

In this world it is not uncommon for one person to develop hate for another; but at about age 15, **Rose said that she had become so full of hate, that she hated nations...**

Poland first, then Germany. She thought she could never forgive them for the atrocities done! She felt that forgiving would be giving them permission to kill people again. *How does one get rid of such deep-rooted bitterness and years of hatred and anger?* After the war Rose moved to the U.S., married, and began to raise a family. In 1971, by the influence of her daughter, she came to believe in Jesus, as the Messiah. She stated that, only the Lord could cleanse a heart full of so much hate; only the Lord could cause her to love and forgive her enemies.

**“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be FORGIVEN him.” James 5:14-15**

In 1981, the Lord had Rose Price return to Germany, where she was to speak on *reconciliation* at a “Berlin for Jesus” rally. “When I was first asked to speak, my reaction was one of horror! For anyone to ask me to set foot on the land where my family was extinguished was more than I could bear.” However, she *did* return, in obedience to the Lord. After the rally, she even met several ex-Nazi soldiers who came to ask her forgiveness. She said, though the flesh cried out for revenge, the Holy Spirit was greater, and she replied, “I forgive you. I love you”. ***It was as if the Lord had anointed her with “the oil the forgiveness”, which brought forth miraculous healing to her entire being... body, soul, and spirit.*** ~ Rose Feldman Price died on May 16, 2015, at the age of 87 ~

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As I recalled the historical accounts of the Holocaust, and Rose Price's personal experiences, I tell myself that if she and others who survived such inhumane atrocities could forgive, I am (and most of us are) without excuse; we should be *quick* to forgive those who trespass against us for the *minor offenses* in our lives today! However, as Rose stated, it was only by the grace of God, after becoming a believer in the Messiah (Jesus Christ), that her heart could be so miraculously transformed!

As Christians, we are *commanded* to love, even our enemies (Luke 6:27), and told that we must forgive, if we want to be forgiven for our sins (Mark 11:25-26). Well, knowledge of the Word of God is one thing, but sometimes the application in our lives is "easier said, than done". However, though these commandments may seem impossible to the natural man, I believe that the Lord would never require anything of us that would be impossible to accomplish. As a matter of fact, we are told in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that the Word of God equips us with *all* that we need "for instructions in righteousness". 1 John 4:4 further expounds, "***greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world***". In other words, we do not have the capacity to forgive others out of our own strength. ***The only way we can forgive those who have deeply hurt or offended us, is through the power of God.*** We are enabled by His Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, who abides in the hearts of those who receive Him, the Bible way. (John 1:12; Acts 2:4, 38-39)



In Matthew 5:25, Jesus taught His disciples a very important principle about forgiving, stating, "***Agree with thine adversary (enemy) quickly***". Why? Because, as we learned from Rose Price's testimony, not forgiving (or delaying) has serious consequences that could ultimately result in spiritual captivity; such bondage could be so hard to be released from, that Jesus called it "prison".

**"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into PRISON." Matthew 5:25**

This is a spiritual truth and divine mandate, that devils in the kingdom of darkness often exploit. They do so, knowing that they have been given permission by God to oppress those who refuse to walk in love and forgive. This is why Jesus told Peter to forgive those who sin against him, not seven times, but "*seventy times seven*", meaning continuously! (Matthew 18:21-22) If we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven. (Matthew 6:14-15) But if we consistently, quickly forgive others, then we will also always be forgiven; therefore, "the adversary" (the devil) cannot have dominion (control) over us! And once again the love of God is manifested, because He came to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8), so we might have life more abundantly!

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised..." Luke 4:18**