

Prayer – part 4

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Forgive us Our Debts

- The actual word used is most accurately translated as debt. Something owed.
- Sin is incurring a debt to God, one we are not capable of repaying.

But, weren't we forgiven completely at the cross all past present and future sin?

- Yes.
 - **Colossians 2:13–14** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
 - **Hebrews 10:10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.
 - **Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- If you are saved, you have been completely forgiven. You have the righteousness of God. And your righteousness is no longer based on your actions, but your faith.
 - **Romans 4:5** But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
 - **Romans 3:21–22** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

If we have already been forgiven of all of our sin, why is Jesus saying we should ask for forgiveness?

- Just because sin does not cause you to lose your salvation, or change your righteousness, does not mean it is good to have it in your life.
 - **Romans 6:14–15** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!
- One of the effects of sinning after salvation is the way it affects our closeness with God
 - **1 John 1:6–7** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - All the time people tell me that they feel ashamed and guilty and therefore they can't pray.
 - This is a cyclic trap from Satan. The enemy does not want you talking with God, so he convinces you that you are unworthy to talk to God.
 - Confession is primarily for us. It is to ease our conscience so that we come boldly before God.
 - **Hebrews 10:22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.
- Confessing our sins aligns us with the values and desires of God
 - Repentance is really coming into agreement with God about a situation, and then deciding to live by the way He views it.
 - If I choose sin, then God and I are disagreeing about something, about what is acceptable, what is profitable, what is holy, whatever.
 - But when we got saved and took on His divine nature, our desires are being transformed into what He desires. We want to be like Him.
 - **Romans 12:1–2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Asking forgiveness, confession and repentance, in our prayers aligns us with the desires of God, brings us into holy living, and restores fellowship with God, even if it is only perceived distance from God.

As We Forgive Our Debtors

- The word “As” is the word Kai which really means and. So Forgive us our debts and we forgive our debtors.
- Forgiving others is essential.
 - **Colossians 3:12–13** Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.
- We forgive the way Christ forgives us. It is not conditional. It is not based on right or wrong. It is done while they may still be in the wrong. It has no limits. (God keeps no record of wrongs, While we were still sinners Christ died for us, forgive them 70*7...)

There is an implication in this part of the prayer that God forgives us when we forgive others. That implication gets stronger if you read the verses immediately after the model prayer:

- **Matthew 6:14–15** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What is Jesus really saying here? There are so many verses that declare His forgiveness for us, how does it fit that we must forgive others before He will forgive us?

Jesus preached the law to those under the law.

Jesus transitioned us from law to grace, but He was under the law and He spoke to those under the law.

- Part of Jesus’ preaching was to point out how futile it is to try to live under the law. The law was designed to point us to our need for our Savior.

- We cannot forgive completely without being completely forgiven. So under the law where we must forgive first, it is impossible.

But Jesus takes us from law to grace.

- By showing us that we are forgiven first, that now enables us to forgive others. And that when we are unwilling to forgive others, that is because we are not receiving the forgiveness of the Father. (Not indicating that forgiveness is not being offered).
- **2 Corinthians 5:19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

God is not in heaven holding unforgiveness toward anyone. Forgiveness is never withheld. Not even towards unbelievers.

- **1 John 2:2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
- **1 John 2:12** I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

However, there is a marked difference between **being forgiven and receiving forgiveness**. And receiving forgiveness requires faith.

- We must believe that the Father has forgiven us the same way we believe He has saved us.
- When we believe that He has forgiven us, we will forgive others.
- It is the same as receiving His love
 - **1 John 4:19** We love Him because He first loved us.

How does this affect the way we pray?

- We need to include forgiving others.
- We need to learn to accept the forgiveness of the Father and then allow that to affect the way we view forgiveness towards others.