

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS

(Matthew 6:9-15)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus gave us a pattern for prayer, a model prayer. It's a precious jewel that leads us into deeper communion with our Father in heaven. Each phrase in the prayer is a theme that we want to adopt as the main points of our prayer-life. The order of the prayer is also very significant.

Matt. 6:9-15

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

***Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

¹⁴ 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.

II. FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS (MY SIN)

- A. We are asking God to forgive us of our current sin.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

1. Debt: that which is legally due. Metaphorically, it's an offense, a sin. God can demand a punishment as something is due – Rom. 6:23 the wages of sin is death
2. Through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross, we have been redeemed and have the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph. 1:6-7; c.f. Col. 1:13-14; 1 John 1:7; Rev. 1:5)

- B. Q: How do I view my relationship to my sin? (1 John 1:9-10)

1. Some people get stuck here and stay at the same place for many years.
2. Others don't take responsibility for this sin. Adam blamed Eve. (Gen. 3:12).
3. Sin is not our identity. (Rom. 6:11; Gal. 2:20)
4. Other people get stuck at other people's sins, which is dealt within the next phrase in the Lord's Prayer.

III. AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS (OTHER PEOPLE'S SIN)

- A. Through the blood of Jesus, there is power available to you to forgive any person involved, who may have contributed to your hurt. (Luke 23:34)
 - 1. Forgive everyone who's making life difficult for you. To forgive those seeking to injure me is to remove myself from their control and to be unfettered by the anger or retaliation that would seek to attach itself to me. We're so sure that everybody that wounds us has a calculated plan, but most probably don't even realize what they're doing. Indeed, some may, but Jesus said, *Forgive them, Father. They don't really understand.*
- B. Forgiveness releases us from the control of others and from accusations of the enemy. Forgiveness opens us up to receive forgiveness for ourselves. Often, in our pain, we do not forgive others (Matt. 6:12, 14-15).
- C. Unforgiveness brings bondage to ourselves and to people who we hold grudges against (Matt. 18:32-35; Heb. 12:15). Matt. 18:23-35
- D. The one who's been forgiven by God must forgive others. (Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-14)
 - 1. When the forgiveness of God through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross is extended to us. When we by faith open to the love of God, it results in gratefulness and supernatural grace in our hearts. We forgive others – we extend the forgiveness to others that we've received ourselves. If we don't forgive others, the flow of God's love and forgiveness stops.
- E. I do not have to feel forgiving in order to forgive.
 - 1. Forgiveness is extended to others as forgiveness has been extended to us. We forgive as we have been forgiven.
 - 2. Forgiveness is a process, but it starts with a decision. Forgiveness given to people who don't deserve it because we didn't deserve it.
 - 3. Forgiveness brings freedom. (Matthew 18:32-35). Unforgiveness keeps both parties bound.
- F. God doesn't forgive us because we've forgiven others. We've already been given the gift of righteousness. We're forgiven solely on the basis of Jesus' redemptive work on the cross. He paid the debt of sin, and it's consequence of death. He paid for it on the cross.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Search me O God (Psa. 139:23; 1 John 2:15-17; Psa. 19:14)
- B. There's Power in the Blood of Jesus for us to overcome whatever we might face (Rev. 12:10-11)