

Does my being forgiven depend on me forgiving

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in

heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive

us our debts, **as we forgive our debtors.** 13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for

ever. Amen.

14 For **if ye forgive** men their trespasses, your

heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But **if ye**

forgive not men their trespasses, **neither** will your

Father forgive your trespasses.

- There are parts of the Model prayer or Lord's prayer that are hard to understand!
- The implication at first reading of this prayer is that your salvation is dependent on how you forgive 12 And forgive us our debts, **as we forgive our debtors.**

- Then there is an apparent direct statement that your forgiveness is directly related to how you forgive **14 For if ye forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: **15 But if ye forgive not** men their trespasses, **neither** will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- To understand this passage and how it relates to us we need to compare Scripture with Scripture. We need to know how this passage fits in with the overall teaching of the New Testament
- This passage of Scripture, the Model Prayer, the Sermon on the Mount were written while the law was still in effect.
- Jesus rescued us from the law **Galatians 4:4** **But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,** **5 To redeem them that were under the law,** that we might receive the adoption of sons.
- The New Testament is actually a result of Jesus dying to give us His testament **Hebrews 9:16** **For where a**

testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

- To understand this passage you must understand what happened when His grace stepped in
- The law was given only to bring you to death so that you could see how good God was being to us
- Learn some truths about our forgiveness with me

1. Truths about our forgiveness

- a. Once you are born again you will never be condemned again [John 5:24](#) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath **everlasting life**, and **shall not come into condemnation**; but is passed from death unto life.
 - i. We are not hoping to get everlasting life instead we have it now
 - ii. We have already passed from death to life
 - iii. We shall not, will not, are not going to be condemned

iv. So the question is have you heard and believed. If you have it is a settled matter

v. **Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,* who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1. We do not walk after the flesh and we are not in the flesh but after the spirit **Romans 8:9** *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

2. The promise is ours. We are in Christ and not in the flesh

3. We walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh

b. Salvation is totally by grace

i. There is nothing you do to be saved except believe what God says about our salvation **Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

- ii. Not by works of righteousness that we have done
Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but **according to his mercy** he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- c. He loved us in our sinful estate **Romans 5:6** For when we were yet **without strength**, in due time Christ died for the **ungodly**. **8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were **yet sinners**, Christ died for us.
- d. He loved us first **I John 4:19** We love him, because he **first loved us**.
- e. It was the Lord Jesus who had the plan of salvation
Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

f. It was God that reconciled us to Himself

II Corinthians 5:18 *And all things are **of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,** and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

g. It was God that gave us His Son John 3:16 *For **God so loved the world,** that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

h. Our salvation is based on a work that God did through Jesus in our lives. It is not contingent on you or what you do except believing God

2. Errors or mistakes that we often make about forgiveness

a. We believe that our forgiveness or salvation depends on our forgiving 14 *For **if ye forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 **But if ye forgive not** men their trespasses, **neither** will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

- b. If we aren't forgiven then we can't get to heaven so we must continually ask forgiveness for our sins and hope that we remember them all **I John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- c. We feel like our fellowship with God depends on us forgiving others
- d. We are consumed with daily confessing our sins
- e. We forgive others but do not forget
- f. We don't forgive even though we have been forgiven

3. So why the strong reference about forgiving.

- a. Don't forget that this passage of Scripture is written as He speaks to the Jews under the law
 - i. He has been showing them the weakness of the law
 - ii. They had to have more righteousness than what the religious leaders were teaching **Matthew 5:20** *For I say unto you, That **except** your righteousness shall **exceed** the righteousness of the scribes and*

Pharisees, **ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

iii. He has mentioned on several occasions that they had been teaching Old Testament truths wrongly

Matthew 5:21 **Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time,** Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²² **But I say unto you,** That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

iv. He had said strong things like cut off your hand and pluck out your eye

b. Jesus is shocking the Jewish religious leaders into understanding that what they have taught and believed is wrong

c. Forgiveness is much stronger than what had been practiced

- d. They needed to see the enormity of their own sin.
Jesus tells the story in [Matthew 18](#) about a man that owes 10,000 talents compared to a man that owed 100 pence
- i. A talent is approximately 75 pounds so the one man owed money that weighed in at 750,000 pounds
 - ii. The other man owed 100 days of standard wage. This amount of money could be carried in your pocket.
 - iii. It would take a working man 20 years work to earn a talent so he would need 200,000 years to pay off this debt
 - iv. We have sinned against a holy God. There is nothing small about my debt. I have been forgiven and should learn to forgive
- e. Jesus has been teaching them to forgive in this message
- i. They were to love their enemies [Matthew 5:44](#) **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

- ii. Forgiveness is a part of who we are
- iii. We have been forgiven and we forgive
- f. They were to die to their selves

4. What steps do we take based on what these verses teach us

- a. The forgiven forgive so live out what He has done in you [Ephesians 4:32](#) **And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**
- b. Compare what others have done to you to what you have done against God as you went your own way and this will help you learn to forgive
- c. Focus on your sin, your failure, your need of a Saviour and it will help you put in its proper place whatever someone else has done to you
- d. Realize that forgiving is an expression of our faith
- e. Realize that my salvation is a work of God in my life that I didn't do and don't deserve

- f. He came to me. He found me in my sin. He saved me. He didn't wait on me to turn my life around. He turned me around. He completely saves us [Hebrews 9:25](#)
Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
- g. Understand that your salvation doesn't depend on anything you do or have done but on what Jesus did on the cross of salvation
- h. You forgive because you know what it feels like