

Section 6

RECEIVING OUR FORGIVENESS

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

Praying that moves us into spiritual awakening seeks God's forgiveness.

I. THE PETITION FOR FORGIVENESS

“And forgive us our debts. . .”

A. Our _____ of Sin.

WORD STUDY: “Debts” describe a sum or amount owed to someone. It is frequently used in the Old Testament as a synonym for sin. It carries the idea of being indebted to God because of our sin.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into temptation.

1. How did we get in debt to God? Through _____! (Romans 3:23).
2. How do we pay this debt to God? Some answer by _____.
If sinning increases my debt to God, then good works must surely reduce that debt. However, good works only keeps us from running up a larger debt. They do nothing to pay for past obligations.

Romans 4:4 Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed.

B. Our _____ for Forgiveness

The only solution to our debt to God is His forgiveness.

1. Based on God's _____, Exodus 34:6-7
2. Available through God's _____, Ephesians 1:7-8
3. Possible Through Christ's _____, Hebrews 9:22
4. Obtained by Man's _____, Acts 3:19

II. THE CONDITIONS OF FORGIVENESS

“ . . . as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

A. _____ with this Condition. Some would argue . . .

1. No Need for Christians to _____ Forgiveness.
2. This Condition Promotes _____.
3. The Condition Contains an _____.

B. _____ of this Condition

1. It provides a _____.

By nature man is unforgiving.

Titus 3:3 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.

Matthew 7:11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.

2. It Defines a _____.

A forgiven man is always commanded to be a forgiving man.

Matthews 6:14-15 “For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

III. THE EXPLANATION OF FORGIVENESS

(Matthew 6:14-15)

A. Forgiveness Demonstrates _____.

Matthew 6:14 “For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well.”

B. Lack of Forgiveness Demonstrates a _____ of _____.

Mathew 6:15 But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.

Water consists of two elements, hydrogen and oxygen. They are inseparable in the sense that if you take one away, it ceases to be water. The same can be said for forgiveness and forgiving. When one is removed, both cease to exist.

“The Christian community survives and thrives, not as the fellowship of the righteous, but as the fellowship of the mutually forgiven, because divinely forgiven.” (Elton Trueblood)

IV. THE DEMONSTRATION OF FORGIVENESS (See Matthew 18:21-35)

A. Context of the Parable

1. Jesus' _____ (Matthew 18:15-20)
2. Peter's _____ (Matthew 18:21)
3. Jesus' _____ (Matthew 18:22)

B. The Teaching of the Parable

1. The illustration...relationship between forgiveness and forgiving
 - a. Forgiveness _____ (Matthew 18:23-27)
 - b. Forgiveness _____ (Matthew 18:28-30)
 - c. Forgiveness _____ (Matthew 18:31-24)

2. The Expectation (See vs 32b-33)

3. The Restoration

When we forgive, it is like performing spiritual surgery. We cut away the wrong done to us and see through new eyes. This restoration will involve:

a. _____

When we forgive we see people from a new perspective.

b. _____.

As we see the truth about them, we gain a new feeling toward them.

c. _____.

Instead of wishing them harm, forgiveness means that we now genuinely wish them well.

Corrie Ten Boom relates the story of preaching one Sunday in a German church. After the service a man walked up to her and said that he was glad that Jesus forgives sins just as she had described in her message. Immediately she recognized him as a prison guard in the concentration camp where she suffered so greatly. When she was confronted by this man who had inflicted such pain and suffering, she realized that she could not forgive him. In recognition of the great truth of God's Word, she immediately prayed, "**Jesus, I can't forgive this man. Forgive me.**"