

The Lord's Prayer: A Prayer To Say
The Father Who Answers Prayer Requires Us To Forgive Pt.3
Ps. Joseph Garlington Jr. Sunday August 6, 2017

Story:

In his book, 'What's So Amazing About Grace?' Phillip Yancey tells the story of Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway grew up in a very devout evangelical family and yet never experienced the grace of Christ. He lived a libertine unrestrained life. A life that most of us would call fast and loose! But, with no father, or hope of a parent waiting for him, he sank into the mire of graceless depression. He wrote a short story that reveals the hope he had for grace. It is a story of a Spanish father and son who become estranged due to differences of opinion. The son runs away to Madrid. Then, in a moment of regret the father sets out to look for his son. He searched for many months without success. The father decides to take out an ad in El Libro, a local newspaper. It reads: "Paco, meet me at the Hotel Montana, Noon, Tuesday... All is forgiven! Papa." When the father arrived at the square in hopes of meeting his son, he found eight hundred Paco's waiting to be reunited with their father. Was Paco such a popular name? Or, is a father's forgiveness the healing balm for every soul?

In a fallen world, forgiveness is essential to maintain close relationships. We all need forgiveness and we all need to grant forgiveness, because we all sin and we all have been sinned against.

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

Matthew 6:14 & 15 *For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*

Matthew 6.12 (Amp) *and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven (left, remitted and let go of the debts, and have given up resentment against) our debtors.*

Forgiveness –

-(Noah Webster) to pardon; to remit, as an offence or debt; to overlook an offense and treat the offender as not guilty. The original and proper phrase is; to forgive the offense, to send it away, to reject it, that is not to impute it, (put it to) the offender.

-(Baker encyclopedia of the bible) ceasing to feel resentment for wrongs and offenses. Pardon, involving restoration of broken relationships. (eng. Def)

-Aphiemi (greek)

- 1. To dismiss, have go away,
- 2. To depart from or leave

and forgive us our debts, AS we also have forgiven our debtors...

As –

-(Merriam Webster online) to the same degree or amount
-Just AS or Equal to...

The critical importance of the 'AS' in forgiveness...

1. It is a pre-requisite to being forgiven.
2. 'AS' is an action word – You must do something!
3. It assumes that you have already forgiven.
4. Used in comparisons between two concepts.

Ephesians 4:32 – *just AS God in Christ has forgiven you...*

Colossians 3:12&13 – *just AS the Lord forgave you, so also should you...*

The 'AS' of the Father & Son

- They both forgive freely
- The father does so for His own sake (Isaiah 43:25)
- Jesus does so to reflect the will of the Father

The Consequences of Refusing To Forgive:

1. Un-forgiveness is a Sin

2. God will not hear your prayers

a. Psalm 66:18 – *if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me*

b. Mark 11:20 – 26 *As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. 21 Being reminded, Peter *said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." 22 And Jesus *answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. 25 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. 26 ["aBut if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."]*

c. 1 Peter 3:7 – *You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*

d. Luke 6:37 – *pardon, forgive, release*

e. Luke 17:3 – *the cycle of Offense and Forgiveness is a fact of Kingdom life.*

3. God will not forgive

a. Matthew 6:14 & 15

4. Un-forgiveness becomes precious & Idolatrous (what is an Idol?)

a. Habakkuk 2:18 – *What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols.*

b. Jonah 2:8 (NIV) – *those that cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.*

i. An idol is made by man

ii. An idol is worshipped by man

iii. An idol is speechless

c. The object of your un-forgiveness becomes a real thing or an idol... You invest in it... Brood over it... It becomes larger in your life than the actual event that triggered it!

d. We personify un-Forgiveness to the extent of idolatry which affects our

i. Relationship with the Father

ii. Relationship with our family

iii. Relationship with our own bodies

Video – How To Catch A Baboon

5. Un-forgiveness creates a 'Place' for the Demonic

a. Ephesians 4:26 & 27 – *Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

b. Matthew 18:34

Dr. Jay Adams in an article from his webpage Institute For Nouthetic Studies shares this understanding of Forgiveness:

-Forgiveness is not a feeling

-Forgiveness is a promise or a decision

-Forgiveness follows the offender repenting and asking for forgiveness

-Repentance does not mean 'I'm sorry'

The Forgiveness Promise:

– A promise to release the offender from the guilt of his sin.

– A promise to refuse to bring up the offense to use against the offender.

– A promise to refuse to think about the offense.

– A promise to refuse to talk to others about the offense.

– A promise to be reconciled with the offender as far as is biblically possible.

Lordship Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before you.

I cover myself with the blood of the Lord, Jesus Christ as my protection.

I surrender myself to You completely and unreservedly in every area of my life.

Lord, I choose today to be transformed by the renewing of my mind and I thank You Lord, for dying for my sins, for Your glorious resurrection and for making me a new creature in Christ by faith in Your precious blood.

Lord Jesus, today I confess You as the Son of God. I confess that You are my Lord and Savior. I confess that You died on the Cross of Calvary for me and that You rose from the dead and disarmed all the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them. Amen.

Confession of Un-forgiveness:

Lord, I have a confession to make. I have not loved but, resented certain people and have un-forgiveness in my heart. I call upon You Lord, to help me forgive them and I do now forgive them.

Lord, I release myself and those I have forgiven from the prison of un-forgiveness in this area.

Heavenly Father, I ask You to forgive me for times when I have resented or hated You. Amen.

Commitment To Live A Forgiving Life:

- By the grace of God I will live a life of forgiveness
- By the grace of God I will extend to others the forgiveness that God in Christ has given me.
- By the grace of God I will seek to remain responsive to Holy Spirit in any situation that I fail to do this.

In the community of those who believe...

James 3:2 – For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

Romans 12:18 – As much as it depends on you, live at peace with all men!

Dealing with Un-forgiveness is a primary aspect of our healing ministry... and we lead people in prayers of release in most of our restorative services.

If these three messages have provoked questions in you about forgiveness, email them and we can answer them all together.

questions@ccop.org