

Week of Nov 8, 2020

## Superpower of Prayer pt. 4

**Scripture: Matthew 6.9-15**



Pray like this:

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 also have forgiven our debtors**  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil

**For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

### 1. Word-by-word breakdown:

- *And* - directly connects the concept of our daily sustenance to the concept of forgiveness (both God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of one another)
- *Forgive* - (Old and New concepts of forgiveness using legal and financial terms)
  - Old concept of forgiveness: *nasa'* - to **postpone the payment**
  - New concept of forgiveness - *aphiemi* - **completely erasing the debt**
- *Debt* - the **obligation that is owed**.
- *Trespasses* - the decision, offense, incident **that causes a debt**.

### 2. Why are we only forgiven when we forgive?

- Until we are ready to forgive, we are not ready to receive **radical forgiveness**.
- **Forgiven people forgive people**. Anything else is an insult to God (*Unforgiving Debtor* - *Matthew 18*)

### 3. What does forgiveness have to do with prayer?

- Prayer is a gift that connects us to God; unforgiveness is what cuts that connection off.
- We are meant to pray for both God's forgiveness and our ability to forgive others.

### 4. Why is forgiveness a miracle?

- Miracles happen when God shows his power over **nature**.
- Human nature does not allow for forgiveness. We naturally hold grudges.
- Every time we are able to truly forgive someone, God is overcoming our nature and empowering us to perform a miracle.

### Conversation Starters:

1. Where has unforgiveness taken root in your life? Who do you need to forgive?

2. Why is it important to forgive both the debt and the trespass?

3. How has unforgiveness affected your connection with God?