

# LORD TEACH ME TO PRAY!

April 22, 2020

## **SESSION FOUR: FORGIVING OTHERS WHEN WE PRAY**

Are you bitter? Do you struggle with forgiving others? If you answered yes to either of those questions, you are very normal. But, you also have a normal issue that can be a cancer to your life, your relationship to God, and to your prayer life.

### Forgiving Others Is A Key To Answered Prayer.

This is huge: we must do prayer on God's terms.

Matthew 6:14-15. This passage is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon and passage, Jesus is not primarily teaching lost people how to be saved, but saved people how to live.

This passage is also part of what we call the Lord's prayer. These verses are really a commentary on verse 12.

Matthew 6:12.

A debt was a Jewish way to describe sin. We forgive others their sins against us, and ask God to forgive us our sins against Him.

We first forgive, and then seek forgiveness. This is not about being saved, but about our continued fellowship with God as a Christian.

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The only commentary or further explanation on the Lord's Prayer is found in verses 14 and 15. This must show there extreme importance.

Verse 14 uses the word trespasses. To trespass is to miss the mark, to step over the line. It is go where you should not go.

To trespass is to \_\_\_\_\_ sin \_\_\_\_\_ here.

Matthew 6:14-15. For God to forgive me, I must confess my sins with a heart to turn from them. And one of the sins and issues I must deal with is my bitterness and unforgiving spirit towards others.

Psalm 66:18! Un-forgiveness is sin! To not forgive others, means God does not bring His cleansing on my life. To not forgive means I am forfeiting my prayer life. WOW!

## **WE NEED TO UNDERTAND WHAT FORGIVING OTHERS IS NOT**

Forgiving others is not \_\_\_\_\_ approval \_\_\_\_\_. To forgive someone is not to approve of their wrong behavior or sin. Separate the deed from the doer.

We rightly say to love the sinner, but you can \_\_\_\_\_ hate \_\_\_\_\_ the sin.

Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_ reconciliation \_\_\_\_\_. Reconciliation, or a coming back together is always the ultimate goal, but it is not always possible or practical. Reconciliation always takes \_\_\_\_\_ two \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 12:18

But often times the other party is not willing or has not changed. Love a habitually bad employee, but let them go and don't rehire them. Break-up with the bad or disloyal person you are dating. Love them, but run from them!

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## WHAT IS BIBLICAL FORGIVENESS?

It is not \_\_\_\_\_ striking \_\_\_\_\_ back!

Romans 12:17 Defend yourself or those you love, yes. But we don't hit back, cuss, or return hatefulness with hatefulness.

It is letting \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ get them. Romans 12:19 He will!

It is letting it go.

Matthew 6:14, forgive means to send away and to dismiss.

We can't completely forget. We need to be wise about the person. But we must let it go to God

Do people need to apologize for us to forgive them, nope! An apology and repentance is the key for reconciliation, but we must let it go either way.

## MAKE FORGIVING OTHERS A FIRST AND KEY PART OF YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Matthew 6:14-15

Psychology Today several years ago had an article on bitterness. It said it is binding, destructive, and futile. And according to Matthew 6:14-15 it ruins your prayer life!

Ask \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ to help you forgive others. Yes, pray for this grace daily or often!

Tell God you are letting them and the issues go. The New Testament describes bitterness as a root that punctures and pricks. Let it go!

Change your \_\_\_\_\_ mental \_\_\_\_\_ picture of the person. We see them with a knife in their head (hopefully in a figurative way). See them with a smile on their face.

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Love them. Romans 12:20 Be nice to their face,  
behind their back, and in your heart.

Pray for them! Matthew 5:44

Job 42:10

Ask God to save them and bless them. You may not mean it, and tell  
God you do not. Ask God to help you mean, and keep praying!

Stay with this the rest of your life! This can  
be a daily task, and maybe something we have to do numerous times  
a day.

This is not easy, but it is essential!

Forgive others. Make this a first part of your daily prayer time. It is a  
key to your mental and emotional health. It is thus important for your  
physical health. It is a key to your relational health.

And it is crucial for your spiritual life, your walk with God, and for your  
prayer life!