

Meeting with God - "Forgive Us Our Debts"

February 22, 2018

Matthew 6:9-13 NASB

9 "Pray, then, in this way..."

Follow this pattern whenever you go to God in prayer. One of the ways the Holy Spirit helps us to pray is through the model Jesus gave us and through Scriptures such as the Psalms.

Romans 8:26 NASB

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven..."

Pray with the confidence that God loves you as your Father. You can go to Him about anything, pouring your heart out to Him, withholding nothing from Him, and He will always welcome you, always love you, always care for you.

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'

Worship puts God, in our heart and focus, in His rightful place and worship places us, along with our desires, cares and problems, in our rightful place.

10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

Prayer is not to have our will accomplished. Prayer is surrendering absolutely and unconditionally to God accomplishing His will in us, even as it is in heaven.

11 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

Prayer exercises our faith in God alone to be our Provider and our Provision, in every area of life, both spiritual and temporal.

Prayer is spiritual warfare against some of our soul's greatest enemies: anxiety, worry and fear.

12 'AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, as we also have forgiven our debtors.'

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

Matthew 6:12 NASB

12 And FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

The testimony of the cloud of witnesses is very clear. The more we encounter and know God in prayer, the more aware and sensitive we are to our own sinfulness.

Job 42:5-6 ESV

**5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;
6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.**

Psalm 73:12-13 ESV

**12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.
13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.**

Psalm 73:16-17 ESV

**16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,
17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.**

Psalm 73:21-22 ESV

**21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,
22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.**

Isaiah 6:1-5 ESV

**1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.
2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.
5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"**

Luke 5:4-8 ESV

**4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."
6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.
7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.
8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."**

"I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him."

—Charles Spurgeon

"The nearer a man lives to God, the more intensely has he to mourn over his own evil heart."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

Very few today know and experience true godly sorrow for their sins. The lack of godly sorrow and genuine heart repentance is a symptom of the lack or absence of God's presence.

Jeremiah 6:15 ESV

15 Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the LORD.

Romans 1:32 ESV

32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

2 Corinthians 7:10 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- *Godly sorrow for sins is relationship-based. Godly sorrow mourns over the offense to God's heart and holiness. It mourns the participation in that which nailed Jesus to the cross.*
- *Worldly sorrow is selfish; feeling sorry for oneself for the consequences and the embarrassment.*
- *Worldly sorrow is deceptive, producing a change in harmful behaviors without repenting of the underlying pride, selfishness and rebellion in the heart.*

"When the sun shines into a dark place, you see the motes you could not see before. Now the Son of Righteousness shines in your heart, and you see the sins you could not see before. Now be zealous to receive more light daily, more of the knowledge and love of God, more of the Spirit of Christ, more of His life, and of the power of His resurrection." —John Wesley, "How to Pray - Established to all Eternity"