

## **And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors**

Do you always do God's will? Do you even want to? Many of us think we can handle day-to-day life just fine until we can't. We don't seek God unless it is convenient and we only trust Him when we are desperate.

Such arrogance is an insult to our holy, almighty, omniscient, loving God. Forgiveness is a very real need because we humans are independent, self-centered, sinful creatures.

That's why Jesus instructed us to pray "...forgive us our debts..." No matter how we translate "debts"—sins, wrongs, trespasses, things we owe, ways we have wronged God—we need to confess, ask God's forgiveness, turn from wrongdoing, and walk in God's ways.

God is ready to forgive you now. His forgiveness is immediate and unconditional. He doesn't have to think about it or see a change in your behavior as those you ask for forgiveness might do. The good news, as recorded in Romans 5:8, is that God has already demonstrated His great love for us. While we were still sinners—before we ever confessed our sins—Jesus Christ died for us and our debts were forgiven.

Experience God's forgiveness for yourself. Confess your sins and ask Him to forgive you.

Once we have been forgiven by God, we are new creations in Christ. We have a small inkling of the magnitude of the price that was paid for our debts and our actions reflect this knowledge. We cannot repay such great love, but we can express our thanks to God by forgiving others as we have been forgiven. Ephesians 4:32 tells us to "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Take time to

- Ask God to show you where you need forgiveness in your life
- Confess your sins to God and ask for His forgiveness
- Let go of anger, bitterness, hatred, hurt, or resentment you hold against someone who has wronged you and keep on forgiving as you have been forgiven

Pray "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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..."