

INTERCESSORY PRAYER - IX

“Forgive Our Debts”

- I. FORGIVENESS IS AN IMPORTANT KEY TO SPIRITUAL LIBERTY, VICTORY, AND JOY.
 - A. *We are coming unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*
 - B. *Part of that growth process is learning how to forgive one another.*
 - C. *We can not forgive others unless we first realize we have been forgiven.*

- II. GOD COMMANDS US TO FORGIVE.
 - A.

- III. ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU.
 - A. *When we pray, “Forgive us our debts,” we ask God to look into our hearts.*
 - B. *If unconfessed sin surfaces at this point, confess that sin to God claiming this promise: (1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- IV. **FORGIVE AS OFTEN AS YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN.**
 - A. *How often?* (Mat 18:21 KJV) Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? (Mat 18:22 KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.
 - B. *Parable.* (Mat 18:23 KJV) Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. (Mat 18:24 KJV) And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. (Mat 18:25 KJV) But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. (Mat 18:26 KJV) The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. (Mat 18:27 KJV) Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. (Mat 18:28 KJV) But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. (Mat 18:29 KJV) And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. (Mat 18:30 KJV) And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. (Mat 18:31 KJV) So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. (Mat 18:32 KJV) Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: (Mat 18:33 KJV) Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? (Mat 18:34 KJV) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. (Mat 18:35 KJV) So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

1. The servant owed the king approximately \$10,000,000--a debt so enormous that he could never repay it.
 2. The man owed the servant about \$20.
 3. Our debt of sin against God is greater than any debt owed us.
 4. Once we realize the magnitude of the debt we owe God, we can freely forgive others.
 5. Ask God to give you a revelation of Calvary and the price He paid for your forgiveness.
- C. ***God is gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*** (Psa 103:8 KJV) The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (Psa 103:9 KJV) He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. (Psa 103:10 KJV) He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. (Psa 103:11 KJV) For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. (Psa 103:12 KJV) As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
- D. ***If we do not forgive, God will deliver us to tormentors until we choose to forgive others.***

V. MAINTAIN A RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS.

- A. ***The key to a right attitude is preparation.*** Do not wait until you are in the heat of emotional conflict to decide how you will react.
- B. ***If you choose to keep a record of the wrongs and bear a grudge, you will live with the tormenting memories and demon oppression until you release the person and forgive.***

STUDY QUESTIONS ON FORGIVENESS

Below are statements concerning forgiveness. If a statement is true write "T" in the blank provided. If it is false, write "F."

1. ___ God uses those who sin against us to teach us how to forgive.
2. ___ Forgiveness is an important key to spiritual victory, liberty, and joy.
3. ___ An attitude of unforgiveness is a reason for unanswered prayer.
4. ___ When John tells us to confess our sin (I John 1:9), he is saying we must agree with what God says about our sin and be willing to turn away from it.
5. ___ Jesus told Peter to forgive a brother who sinned against him, but no more than seven times.
6. ___ Your debt of sin against God is greater than any debt an offender will ever owe you.
7. ___ When we refuse to forgive a person, we put that individual in bondage.
8. ___ If we do not forgive, God will turn us over to tormentors until we choose to forgive.
9. What do you think this statement means? "Forgiveness is not an emotion; it is an act of the will?"