

“Being at Peace with God and Others”

The Lord’s Prayer Part 4

Matthew 6:12

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Each of us can experience peace with God and others by...

A. Receiving God’s forgiveness.

In order to receive God’s forgiveness we must understand these two truths:

Truth 1 We receive God’s forgiveness from past, present and future sins when we put our faith in Christ. This is needed once. (Acts 13:38, 39; 10:43; Ephesians 1:5-7; Colossians 1:21, 22)

Truth 2 Acknowledging our sin allows us to experience God’s forgiveness and fellowship. This is needed daily. (Psalm 32:1-5)

“The content of the Bible is the worst of news (you are a sinner) and the best of news (God is willing to forgive). It’s only when you’re ready to admit the worst that you then open yourself up to what’s best. All of this means that you and I don’t have to live in denial and avoidance. We don’t have to play self-excusing logic games with ourselves. We don’t have to give ourselves to systems of penance and self-atonement. We don’t have to point the finger of blame at others. We don’t have to perform our way into God’s favor. No, we can come to him again and again just as we are, flawed, broken, and unclean, and know that he’ll never turn away anyone who comes to him and says ‘I have sinned; won’t you in your grace forgive?’

There's no sin too great, there's no act too heinous, and there's no person beyond hope. The offer is open and free. There's no requirement of age, gender, ethnicity, location or position. God welcomes you to come. He asks only that you admit your sin and seek what can be found only in him—forgiveness.”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow*,
Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 136

B. Extending forgiveness to others.

Extending forgiveness to others involves:

1. Not taking revenge. (Romans 12:19)
2. Leaving room for God's wrath, by trusting God to repay. (Romans 12:19, 20)
3. Allowing God's grace and kindness to flow to others. (Romans 12:20, 21)

“Forgiveness—Mark 11:25—is essential. It is so insidiously pleasant to hold onto the ‘right’ to feel angry, hurt, depressed, vengeful, etc. Unless we forgive our childhood tormentors the way Jesus forgave us as we tormented Him on the cross, we will never have any spiritual freedom in our lives. This is merely an act of the will. We must *will* to forgive them and God works the forgiveness in our hearts.”

Elizabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*,
Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, MI, 1990, p. 190.