

Forgive Us as We Forgive

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors." Whether your Bible translates that particular word as debts, trespasses, or sins, Jesus addresses our broken relationships and the necessity of giving and receiving forgiveness. As fallen human beings, we know that forgiving someone who has wronged us is not always easy—and sometimes it's complicated by a lack of repentance, or even serious issues of abuse or mistreatment. Join us as we examine Scripture to glean a biblical definition of forgiveness and better understand the concept of spiritual debt. Together, we'll discuss what it means that Jesus connected our petition for forgiveness from God with our willingness to forgive each other, and we'll consider the implications of forgiveness for both our daily and our eternal lives.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Who was the last person you forgave?
- Does forgiveness deepen your relationship with those you love? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Forgive Us as We Forgive](#)

READ [Matthew 6:12](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflect on Neil Plantinga's definition of forgiveness that Scott shared in segment 1: "Forgiveness is letting go of an anger that you have a right to feel." What are the benefits of letting go of anger in a relationship?
- Financial debt has long been used as a metaphor for spiritual debts. Instead of owing a debt to a bank, we owe an insurmountable debt to God. How has God forgiven your spiritual debt?
- In segment 2, Darrell and Scott remind us that God's forgiveness motivates our forgiveness. What spiritual practices remind you of God's forgiveness in your life? How can you use that reminder to forgive others?
- Think about your relationships. Is there anyone you still need to forgive? Have you identified the reasons that are making it difficult to forgive them?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Luke 6:38](#), [John 8:1-11](#), [Romans 6:23](#)

CONCLUSION

Forgiveness is an essential mark of the Christian life. Use the following prayer prompts as starting points to continue nurturing the spiritual work of forgiveness in your life...

- Thank you, Father, for the free gift of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. May I remember your forgiveness when I feel shame and guilt over past sins...
- Compassionate God, may I not let anger overcome my love for others. Teach me to be gracious even when I don't want to be.
- Gracious God, I'm struggling to forgive _____. Soften my heart and teach me to forgive again.

May you be assured that God's anger towards sin was satisfied by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. May God's generous forgiveness free you from guilt and motivate you to practice forgiveness every day.

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Printed on February 22, 2025