

Jesus' Model Prayer – Part 7

Fifth Petition: Praying for Our Spiritual Good (Forgiveness of Sin)

Matthew 6:12, 14-15

I. What Are the “Debts” We Need to Have Forgiven? (vs. 12a)

Luke 11:4a

Matthew 18:21-35

II. In What Sense Are Our Debts Forgiven “As We Forgive Our Debtors?” (vs. 12b, 14-15)

First, the form of request the petition for forgiveness takes rules out merit, so that our forgiveness of others cannot be the cause of God's forgiveness of us.

Second, we must distinguish between the initial forgiveness of our sins when we are justified and the ongoing need for confession and forgiveness in our daily lives as we are sanctified.

Romans 3:21-24; 4:5-8

Colossians 2: 13-14

1 John 1:8-2:1

Third, we must distinguish between our forgiveness of others as the *cause* of God's forgiveness of us versus our forgiveness of others as the *evidence* of our having been forgiven by God.

James 2:14-17

Fourth, we must distinguish between *deserts* and *capacity*. Jesus is not saying that God's forgiveness of our sins is the *just deserts* of our having forgiven others. Rather, He is implying that our forgiveness of others *affects our capacity* to receive God's forgiveness.

Psalms 66:18