

Transformational Praying Pt. 7

“Lord, Teach us to Pray...” Luke 11:4;

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov 4th

Prayer is foundational to understanding God’s Perspective! (Is. 55:6-8)

Our Character is fashioned by Communication. (1 Cor 15:33) Good communication transforms acquaintances into Friends, and Friends into Partners! Since prayer is basically

“communication” (communion) with God, it has the same transformation power. (2 Cor. 3:18)

The middle of the Sermon on the Mount is specific instruction about how to practice

“transformational” prayer. Jesus modeled this so often that his disciples asked him

“Lord, teach us to pray.” (Lk 11:1-4) Mt. 6:9 *“After this manner ...pray ye:”*

1. *“Our Father”* Prayer is based on a Personal Relationship!
2. *“Which art in heaven”*: Based on an Eternal Perspective.
3. *“hallowed be thy name”* : Based on an Powerful awareness!
4. *“Thy Kingdom Come”* Based on a Partisan Allegiance!
5. *“Thy Will Be done.”* Based on a Purposeful Submission.
6. *“Give us this day our daily bread”* Provision based on Purified Priorities.
7. *“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” Vs 12*

A. Faces (Dimensions) of Forgiveness.

1) Aph’emi: to dismiss, send away, discharge or forsake

a) Dismissing a debt.

(1) When you grant forgiveness, you dismiss (absorb) the debt you are owed.

(2) When you receive forgiveness, your debt is dismissed.

Since someone else “paid” (absorbed) it, You’re released from repayment! 2 Cor. 5:20

b) Forgiveness is dismissing a demand (for repayment)

(1) We may absorb the debt but still expect some type of Payment. (apology, sorrow, etc.)

2) chariz’omai: to grant as a favor, pardon, rescue, deliver.

From “Char’is”: God’s influence on our hearts and its manifestation in our lives.

a) God’s grace in forgiving us enables us to forgive others. Phil. 2:13

“it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

Eph 4:32 *“be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, (chariz’omai)*

even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

B. Forgeries (Disguises) of forgiveness. *We can think we’ve forgiven when we may have simply put on a “mask” that we (and others) mistake for genuine forgiveness.*

Forgiveness is not...

1) Circumventing God's justice.

It is allowing God to execute His justice in His time and in His way. (Ro 12:19)

“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: (Get out of God’s Way!) for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

2) Excusing unjust (sinful) behavior.... *It’s acknowledging that sin is without excuse, while choosing to obediently Forgive!* (Eph. 4:32)

- 3) Denying the Pain of the offense... *It's allowing God to use "all things" to conform us to the image of His Son.* (Ro. 8:28,29)
- 4) Conditional on their behavior... *But on our response to God's Grace!* (Phil. 2:13)
- 5) Forgetting the offense... *It's necessary to remember to forgive.*
- 6) A Feeling...*it's a conscious choice to obey.*
- 7) Waiting for time to "heal all wounds." *Wounds not cleansed by forgiveness will become infected by bitterness.* (Eph. 4:26-32)

C. Denying forgiveness brings consequences *Mt. 6:12-15*

Eph. 4:32 *"be ye kind...forgiving one another"* (chariz'omai) comes from Charis (grace) and means to grant as a favor.

- 1) We need God's Grace to do this! Heb 12:14 *"Follow peace with all men, (from eiro: to join, set as one, reconcile) and holiness, (hagiasmos: Purity) without which no man shall see the Lord"*
- 2) If we *"fail (resist) the grace of God"* (Heb. 12:15) and Refuse to grant this favor ... We set in motion several predictable and inevitable events!
 - a) *"root of bitterness (pikria: Poison) spring up"*
 - b) *"trouble you"* (enochle'ō: crowd, choke, annoy)
 - c) *"and thereby many be defiled;"* (miainō: Pronounced "Me-I-Know" : Contaminated)

Conclusion: Mt 18:21-35

"Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? I say not ... Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the Kingdom of heaven like..."

And he describes a Man with an incredible debt, that was freely forgiven. (Vs 23-27)
 This man finds someone who owed him a pittance, but refused to forgive him. (vs 28-30)
 When the King learned of it said: *"O wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?"* vs. 32-33
 Mt 18:34-35 *"And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due... So shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one ... their trespasses."*

Forgiveness is costly; But unforgiveness costs even more!

Application: Mt. 6:12 *"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

- 1) Has God forgiven your "debts"? Ro. 5:1
Are you a forgiven servant?
- 2) Is there someone who "owes" you?
Will you be a "forgiving" servant?