

Jenaministries – Part 3. Prayers

3. A Prayer for Forgiving

Dear Lord,

Thank you for my salvation. I am so grateful that you are a holy and righteous God. I never have to worry if you are being truthful or good. You always keep your promises and you always work for our spiritual wellbeing.

You have taught me in your Word (**Matthew 6:14-15**) that if I don't forgive others who sin against me, then you will not forgive me my sins. That's a troubling thought for me since I have difficulty forgiving others. Especially those who continue to do things that upset me with no remorse. Please help me overcome this weakness. Give me the strength and wisdom to forgive those who sin against me. I need your help.

Even if the sin against me is a current and reoccurring offense, you still require us to forgive (**Matthew 18:21-35**). I understand that it is not healthy for us to hold in resentment. We need to forgive others for our own wellbeing. But as I let go of the resentment, help me to set boundaries, so I do not continue to get hurt. Just because I forgive someone doesn't mean I should let them continue to sin against me. I need to set boundaries, and I need you to take the lead on that. Please guide my actions.

As I work on forgiving others, please forgive me my sins, and there are many. I'm so grateful that it is never too late to turn to you (**Luke 23:39-43**). Just like the criminal who was crucified beside you, you forgave him at the last moments of his life. All he had to do is ask for forgiveness, and you guaranteed him that he would be in paradise with you later that day. How beautiful that is.

You know how my heart breaks and how these offenses have negatively affected me. You know how I struggle to get past these offenses done against me and/or my loved ones. They don't deserve my forgiveness and they definitely haven't asked for it either. However, I know I need to do this and I understand why. The resentment must leave me.

Help me to see my offenders through your eyes. Surely, you love them. You can see their hurts and their hearts. You understand why they have done these things.

Thank you for being involved in our most personal lives. Thank you for your guidance and wisdom as we walk down this sometimes most difficult road of life. My comforter, my guide, and my savior; I love you so much – more than anything.

In the powerful, wonderful name of Jesus - Amen.

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Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Luke 23:39-43 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” but the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”