



Sharing

His

Love

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

www.buildingfathershouse.org

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 10 : “Forgive us our sins as we forgive” – we must be in alignment with God.

Luke 11:3 “and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret of “**forgive us our sins as we forgive**” in our prayer-life.

Intended Goal: To understand the **secret behind** forgiveness, as we consider the inheritance we received from God, in a **lifestyle** of prayer.

Scripture readings :

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven (left, remitted, and let go of the debts, and have given up resentment against) our debtors.

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.

James 5:16 Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.

Matthew 18:34-35 And in wrath his master turned him over to the torturers (the jailers), till he should pay all that he owed. So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart his offenses.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Luke 6:37-38 And judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: release, and ye shall be released: give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 9:13 Go and learn what this means: **I desire mercy [that is, readiness to help those in trouble] and not sacrifice and sacrificial victims.** For I came not to call and invite [to repentance] the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God), but sinners (the erring ones and all those not free from sin). [Hos. 6:6.]

Luke 3:8 Bear fruits that are deserving and consistent with [your] repentance [that is, conduct worthy of a heart changed, a heart abhorring sin]. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father; for I tell you that God is able from these stones to raise up descendants for Abraham.

Romans 6:10 For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him].

Romans 6:14-18 For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God's favor and mercy]. What then [are we to conclude]? Shall we sin because we live not under Law but under God's favor and mercy? Certainly not! Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are the slaves of him whom you obey, **whether that be to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (right doing and right standing with God)?** But thank God, though you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed. **And having been set free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in thought, purpose, and action).**

Romans 1:14 Both to Greeks and to barbarians (to the cultured and to the uncultured), both to the wise and the foolish, **I have an obligation to discharge and a duty to perform and a debt to pay.**

1 John 2:6 Whoever says he abides in Him ought [as a personal debt] to walk and conduct himself in the same way in which He walked and conducted Himself.

Food for thought :

Definitions -Strong's reference

From (the alternate of) [G3784](#); something owed, that is, (figuratively) a *due*.; morally a *fault*: - **debt**.

From [G3784](#); an *owe*, that is, a person *indebted*; figuratively a *delinquent*; morally a *transgressor* (against God): - **debtor**, which owed, sinner.

From [G575](#) and ἵημι *hiēmi* (to *send*; an intensive form of εἶμι *eimi* (to *go*)); to *send forth*, in various applications: - cry, **forgive**, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, **suffer, yield up**.

From [G3895](#); a *side slip* (*lapse* or *deviation*), that is, (unintentional) **error** or (**willful**) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offense, sin, **trespass**.

Perhaps from [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and the base of [G3313](#); **properly to miss the mark** (and so *not share* in the prize), that is, (figuratively) to *err*, especially (morally) **to sin**: - for your faults, offend, sin, trespass.

Genitive plural of [G1473](#); of (or from) *us*: - **our** (company), us, we.

Considering the value of forgiveness

In considering forgiveness, we can conclude that **forgiveness is something to receive only after it is given, you cannot receive forgiveness unless someone forgave you first.** *Ephesians 2:4-7* **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace**

in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. We did not first receive forgiveness, **God first gave us forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ**, so that we can receive that forgiveness in faith.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgement and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God.

Even though the gift is a free gift, it does not mean that it did not cost anything. It is free because it has been given as a gift, and therefore freely received. The Bible say in *John 3:16 that God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life.*

As mentioned, in order to forgive, something need to be given - looking at the word forgive we see that it's meaning is also **to give up, to yield up and to suffer** but **we can only give up something we have**. God **gave up His only Son to suffer so that we can receive forgiveness of sin**. In gratefulness we should also give up those things that hinder us from forgiving.

We should give up our personal rights, the right to be ...

The secret of **forgiveness, or giving up** is based in the Word that said - **only if you give your life away can you receive the new life and inheritance in Christ**, it is die to your own self and interest (as Christ died) in order to be resurrected together with Christ.

John 12:24-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit. He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

In considering the parable of the debtors (Luke 7:40-47), Jesus explained to Simon that the one who have been **forgiven much, love much**, likewise the one forgiven little love little. The measure of love you have is therefore the measure of forgiveness you received, in acknowledging that you have been forgiven much. In the story of the King who forgave one of his debtors, the debt owned. The debtor received the forgiveness but did not or was not able to put a value to the forgiveness he received. Therefore when **the time came for him to forgive his debtors, he could not because he did not value the forgiveness he first received (he did not remember)**.

If at all, it is possible to prize the gift of forgiveness, the **value** will be **determined by the gratefulness** of the one who received the gift, and will be expressed in the measure of love he can show to others in his ability to forgive. God gave us this **gift of forgiveness in the expression of His love and mercy** – in accepting the gift, we do not only **receive forgiveness, we receive a second chance to be in right standing with God**, a recreated mankind to walk in obedience to our creator/as we have been recreated in Christ Jesus.

Debt versus sin

Matt 6:12 refer to debt, while Luke 11:4 refer to sin, is it a contradiction? no. The debt is that what is owed unto God and sin in Luke refer to “missing the mark”, in context both debt and sin refer to **not doing that what we should do**. We received forgiveness **with a purpose**, and our sin is failure to fulfill that purpose. The Bible say in *Ephesians 4:12-13 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

In reference to **Romans 1:14** Paul said that he is a debtor to the Greek, but he was not a debtor before he received forgiveness, he became a debtor based upon the forgiveness he received and the consequent calling.

Fathom the **value of your forgiveness!** the **price that was paid for your freedom.** We are as the servant who discovered his debt has achieved astronomical proportions - Matt 18v21-35. We owe God our EVERYTHING our body,soul and spirit. **We cannot pay for our forgiveness i.e. our salvation but we can in thankfulness love and serve Him with our body ,soul and spirit.**

Forgiving others

The full circle of true forgiveness is moving from a place of resentment against a person, persons to loving the person or persons. In Matt 6v45-48 the Lord requires of us to love our enemies.

Sometimes devastating things happen which affect our lives severely.It is in this instances that we need to know that our Father is Jehovah El-Shaddai (our all sufficient God) and Jehovah Jire (the Lord will provide).He helps us in our weakness, as we allow Him, His love to work through us to forgive. As long as we will to obey Him i.e. to will to forgive and we confess with our mouth that we forgive the person even though we do not FEEL like it.Then the Lord can come into the situation and fight for us.When the Lord restore, He restores 7 times.

To forgive, you do not have to condone the sin. When you forgive someone, you continue to hate the sin but you love the person.

If things happen and wrongs occur, the most important is not who is right and who is wrong but who is standing with Jesus! As a child of the Lord our job is to release the people who wronged us, keep our heart right with God and keep on moving.God is the judge and He is in control.

It is our human nature to focus on the wrong done to oneself, but remember to judge yourself and to ask forgiveness for your own sins e.g. wrong attitude in the situation, for not living and obeying the law of love as in 1 Corinthians 13.Praise the Lord it is true that love never fails.See the true story of the man who loved his enemy.

Ps.89v14 states that God's throne is righteousness and justice.We need to pray for God's throne to come in such situation!

True story :

Luke 7:40-47** And Jesus, replying, said to him, Simon, I have something to say to you. And he answered, Teacher, say it. A certain lender of money [at interest] had two debtors: one owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they had no means of paying, he freely forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more? Simon answered, The one, I take it, for whom he forgave and cancelled more. And Jesus said to him, You have decided correctly. Then turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss, but she from the moment I came in has not ceased [intermittently] to kiss My feet tenderly and caressingly. You did not anoint My head with [cheap, ordinary] oil, but she has anointed My feet with [costly, rare] perfume. Therefore I tell you, her sins, many [as they are], are forgiven her--because she has loved much. **But he who is forgiven little loves little.

A man was given a vision of **what happens in the spiritual realm when forgiveness/loving an enemy is practiced.** The Lord showed him how his love for his enemy by forgiving him, actively loving him in the spirit and praying for him actually resulted in changing his enemy completely.The Lord sent an angel to this man to put the Sword of truth through his heart. **Ezekiel 36:26** *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.* The Lord showed the man how his decision to love and forgive his enemy brought about his enemy's redemption as it activated the armies of heaven to fight for his enemy's salvation.He was astonished to realize his earthly enemy was actually the treasure the Lord longed to uncover and by his obedience to God's Word this was made possible! He stood in awe witnessing the transformation of someone he thought was unredeemable.

Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

God's authority :

Psalm 85:2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.

Psalm 99:8 You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds.

Psalm 130:3-4 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? **But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.**

Jeremiah 33:8 I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me.

Ezekiel 18:21-22 "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.

Luke 17:3-4 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent, 'you shall forgive him.'

Daniel 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? **He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.** He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Colossians 3:13-14 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness.

Hebrews 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, **once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.**

1 Peter 3:8-9 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Revelation 1:5 and from **Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Isaiah 64:6 For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousness are as a polluted garment: and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

John 9:41 Jesus said to them, If you were blind, you would have no sin; **but because you now claim to have sight, your sin remains.** [If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but because you insist, We do see clearly, you are unable to escape your guilt.]

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we **will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 22:37-40 And he said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second like [unto it] is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets.

Conclusion:

In teaching His disciples to pray the Lord knew that the value of forgiveness is determined by the **gratefulness of the one who received the forgiveness**, therefore the Lord's prayer is a pattern guiding us to a point of forgiveness. Our conscience is quickened and we become aware of our unrighteousness and our inability to be in the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we have been called to be. Reminding us of Isaiah who found himself in the presence of God Isaiah 6:1-5 *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim's: each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*⁵ Isa 6:1-5

As we are guided by the **Lord's Prayer to a point of asking for forgiveness**, based on the awareness of God and His Holiness in comparison to our unrighteousness, **we say forgive us our sins, our debt for missing the mark as the church of Christ.** We are called to declare and to established the Kingdom of the Lord on earth, and for the mentioned purpose we have been equipped by the Lord through His Holy Spirit. But like the 24 elders representing the redeemed church, we must cast every crown at the feet of God in acknowledging that everything we received is to the glory of His name. *Revelation 4:10-11* *the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

The Lord's prayer **teach us NOT to be individually minded**, for the pattern of prayer start by acknowledging that we belong to one family. God is one and He is our Father, therefore we ask for forgiveness not only based on our individual debt but on our collective debt as we represent the Body of Christ. In asking for forgiveness **we ask for forgiveness for our failure as individuals within a collective body of Christ and for our failure as a body of Christ to do according to God's will.** In praying the Lord's prayer on a daily basis, we are being reminded of our inability to repay the full debt that we accumulated before God, and **we can only rely on God's mercy through the blood of Jesus to forgive us as we are also prepared to show mercy to those who offended us.** Compelling us to intercede not on

behalf of, but intercede as being part of the solution. The mentioned does not exclude the individual's sin that require forgiveness, nor the individual's duty to forgive others in order to be forgiven. It however reminds us that we as the body of Christ have a collective role to play. Jesus expressed His desire for the body of Christ in *John 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

What then is the secret of forgiveness ? Forgiveness, humble us in the presence of God, for in asking forgiveness we are reminded of the love that we so freely received. In giving forgiveness we are reminded of the price that was paid for our own forgiveness. Like the elders we are reminded that we cannot boast in ourselves, we can only humble ourselves in the presence of His Holiness, for nothing we did can compare to what God already did for us.

Questions to be answered :

1. Why do we need to ask for forgiveness?
2. In the Lord's prayer, why do we say "forgive us"?
3. What is the meaning of forgiveness?
4. What does it mean if we say we belong to the body of Christ?
5. What is the secret that we need to learn from forgiveness?