

PRAY LIKE THIS: A LIFESAVING PRAYER

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Matthew 6:9-13 NKJ

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:12 NKJ

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

SKANDALON: the trigger of a TRAP

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” – *C.S. Lewis*

The Way the World Deals with Offense:

- I curse it.
- I nurse it.
- I rehearse it.
- I verse it.

Proverbs 16:28 NKJ

A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.

- I burst it.

Proverbs 17:9 MSG

Overlook an offense and bond a friendship; fasten on to a slight and—good-bye, friend!

A Lifesaving Prayer:

1. Confess my debts.

1 John 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 10:22 NIV

...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

2. Release their debts.

Matthew 6:14-15 NIV

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.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NIV

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

“Once our eyes have been opened to see the enormity of our offence against God, the injuries which others have done to us appear by comparison extremely trifling. If, on the other hand, we have an exaggerated view of the offences of others, it proves that we have minimized our own.” – *John R. W. Stott*

Genesis 4:23-24 NIV

Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

3. Prepare for the debts that are coming.

1 John 4:19-20 NIV

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar...

“At last I understood: in the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God’s hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy.” – *Phillip Yancey*