

Matthew 6:9-13

- ✓ We are now on our sixth installment of the Lord's prayer, which isn't the Lord's prayer but the disciple's prayer or actually the sinner's prayer.
 - ✓ I call it the sinner's prayer because our sin is one the topics He taught us to pray about.
 - ✓ Two times Jesus teaches His disciples to pray and both times He teaches them to bring up their sins: **Luke 11:2-3**.
 - ✓ We keep trying to push the whole idea of our sinfulness into some distant memory but, apparently, Jesus wants it at the forefront of our thinking.
 - ✓ In fact, the Scriptures, especially and including the New Testament, major on this. **1st John 1:9**
 - ✓ Communion is a constant reminder that Jesus body and blood were sacrificed for our sins.
 - ✓ We like to say around Christmas time that "Jesus is the reason for the season," but actually our sins are the reason.
 - ✓ Jesus becoming a man was a means to an end, that end being providing forgiveness for sins.
 - ✓ But hasn't Jesus come and died and paid for our sins, and aren't our sins forgiven the moment we accept Jesus' salvation?
 - ✓ But Jesus on two different occasions, when teaching on prayer, tells us that we need to ask for forgiveness of our sins as an essential part of our prayer life.
 - ✓ Why do we need to keep asking for forgiveness, why do we continually need a reminder of our sins?
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- ✓ We will answer that question, but first let's first review what's really going on in our world: we only have one problem, and it is sin.
 - ✓ It is not a mystery what's wrong with our world and neither is it a mystery what sin is, rebellion against God.
 - ✓ Sin is our single problem and forgiveness is our single cure.
 - ✓ Sin is the reason for this season, it is the reason for Easter, it is the reason why Jesus came, and it is the reason He will return.
 - ✓ It is why we grow old, deteriorate, get sick, and die.
 - ✓ It is not a problem, it is the problem, and God has a problem with it.
 - ✓ God is so serious about sin that He is going to see to it that every sin every committed, is punished, not a sin will go unpunished, **Exodus 23:7; Nahum 3; Romans 1:18**, all means all.
 - ✓ God is angry with the wicked: **Psalm 7:11**.
 - ✓ God hates those who do iniquity **Psalm 5:5**.
 - ✓ In case you class yourself as such: **Romans 3:11 & 13; Ephesians 2:1 dead in our sins; Ephesians 2:3 children of wrath; Ephesians 2:12**.
 - ✓ Sin is the culprit in every broken marriage, in every disrupted home, in every shattered friendship, in every argument, in every battle and war, every conflict, every pain, every sorrow, every death.
 - ✓ Because this is all true, forgiveness is mankind's greatest need. Nothing else even comes close.
 - ✓ Which brings us, finally, to the good news, God has already punished our sin in the suffering and death of His Son proving that we can be forgiven by raising Him from the dead.
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Luke 11: Prayer Diagram, Part 6, Forgive Us Our Sins

- ✓ Forgiveness is available and one of the ways we know that it is, is because that's exactly what Jesus tells us to ask for in this Model Prayer.
- ✓ Back to our original question: why if God has forgiven us in Christ does He continue to tell us to ask for forgiveness?
- ✓ The answer is pretty easy if you understand the purpose of prayer, not to change God, not shape heaven, not get our agenda heard, not to teach God or help God with anything.
- ✓ God wants this to be way of life for us.
- ✓ We are being shaped, we are being changed, "hallowed be Thy name," do we take away any of His glory when we don't do that? Is His glory dependent on our acknowledgment of it?
- ✓ "Thy kingdom come," so if we don't pray it or seek it, will it stop it from coming?
- ✓ "Thy will be done," If we dig in our heels and refuse God's will, will that in any way hinder Him?
- ✓ "Give us this day our daily bread," if we don't ask will He withhold it?
- ✓ "Forgive us our sins," if we don't pray it, it won't happen?

This is a discipleship prayer because it is Disciple training: in Glorifying God, in seeking His kingdom, in doing His will, in dependency on Him, in realizing our humble state of being forgiven.
