

DEBT-FREE AND SHARING IT

May 19, 2013 Matthew 6:12, 14-15 by Bob Branch
Connecting With God Thru Prayer, Part 6

MAIN IDEA: A balanced spiritual diet will always include taking our sin seriously, coming to the Lord in confession and repentance (and receiving forgiveness), and in turn forgiving others. The Lord's Prayer is natural transportation for this.

¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors... ¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. **Matthew 6:12, 14-15**

◆ **Sin is INDEBTEDNESS.** (Matthew 18)

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” **Luke 7:41-42**

◆ **We need FORGIVENESS.**

Forgiveness is canceling the debt.

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?’ **Matthew 18:32-33** (Romans 3:23; Luke 11:4)

◆ **This process is CONFESSION.**

Why do we need to confess? Are we forgiven thru the work of Jesus on the cross?

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:8-9**

“confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” **James 5:16**

◆ **This mandates becoming FORGIVING people.**

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” **Mark 11:25**

“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 6:14-15**

1. **Keep short accounts of your sins with God by DAILY CONFESSING THEM to Him and turning from them.**

Call them “SIN”... don’t mislabel.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” **Psalms 139:23-24**

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. **Psalms 32:3-5**

2. **Keep short accounts of others sins by practicing the DISCIPLINE OF FORGIVING whenever there is even a hint of bitterness or resentment.**

Forgiving is not optional

Forgiving is not a feeling

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” **Colossians 3:13**