

Irregular

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- TOPICS: Daily Devotion; God Our Father; Lent-Easter; Lord's Prayer; Prayer; Repentance & Forgiveness
- LEAD-IN: *Our Father in heaven...forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.* (Matthew 6:9, 12, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Forgiveness

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matthew 6:12, NIV)

If you wrote down a list of your most pressing needs, what would it include?

Notice that in the Lord's Prayer when Jesus taught us to pray daily about our needs, two of the three petitions concern evil in our lives. He understood what was truly important in life, and He said that sin should be one of our chief daily concerns. Thus this fifth petition seeks forgiveness for the wrongs we've committed.

Remember that the Lord's Prayer teaches us how to relate to a loving God who is always with us. We are weak creatures, unstable and inconsistent. If we are to maintain a healthy, intimate, unbroken relationship with a holy God, a time of confession and forgiveness is essential. This is true no matter what our theology and no matter what our definition of sin.

We fail to trust Him, and thus we hinder His working in our lives. We fail to act in love. Without even thinking about it, we revert to our selfish thoughts and selfish ways. We need His forgiveness. We need His daily renewal.

The wonder is this: if we turn to God openly, in simple trust, not even our sins need keep us apart from Him. He invites us to come to Him in daily confession, assured that His boundless love will gladly and freely forgive us.

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