

Spiritual Warfare 101
AND FORGIVE US DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS...Matthew 6:12

This part of the Lord's Prayer has always been interesting to me. As a child, my first impression of the this verse was that I needed to be sure not to hold it against someone if they owed me money and didn't pay it back. Somehow that little kid thought stuck with me for many years.

Then I realized that when someone hurts us, they are automatically placed in a position of owing us. It could be as simple as they owe us an apology or as complex as they have ruined our lives and they could really never fully repay what they have stolen from us. Anyone who hurts us, becomes a debtor.

And, anytime we have hurt someone, we have debts that are owed to those people. Sometimes we can apologize and everything is smoothed over, the debt is paid. But, what about those hurts that were so deep the debt could never be paid in full?

That's what this prayer is talking about. In this light it says: "Lord, forgive me for the times I have hurt someone so deeply that it is impossible for me to make it right with them in the same measure that I have forgiven the debts owed to me by those people who have deeply wounded and hurt me."

When we don't forgive, we become yoked to the person who hurt us. We drag that bad experience and all that hurt and pain around with us wherever we go. Because we haven't forgiven, we get hurt very easy. Pretty soon we have dozens of unforgiveness bags we are dragging around and it's very heavy and hard for us to function in peace, joy, and love as we should.

Forgiveness is such an important prayer and action on our part that the Bible says, if we don't forgive other, we will not be forgiven ourselves. It also says we can't pray effectively if we have not forgiven. Forgiveness is part of the very character of God. Since we are growing daily to be like Him, forgiveness must become part of our character as well.

Forgiveness is so important to our spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing that we simply cannot walk in unforgiveness and be healthy Christians or for that matter healthy people. It is an essential prerequisite for any kind of healing, including many physical healings, and for restoration of broken families and relationships.

Don't be a debt collector, dragging around those heavy unforgiveness bags. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and help you to forgive today...and to walk continuously in the liberty and life of forgiveness.