

### Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another  
in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



*This fourth of five devotionals focuses on each of the five petitions of the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is not only intended to be a stand-alone prayer, but also a model to guide us in framing our own prayers. Each petition is both very concise and very comprehensive. The Scriptures below for each petition are meant to help us open up our prayers, to reach deeper in and higher up.*

### **Scripture for "Forgive us our debts."**

**Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**Psalm 130:3-4** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

**Micah 7:18** Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

**Colossians 2:13-14** You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

**I John 1:8-9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**I John 2:1-2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### **Scripture for "As we forgive our debtors."**

**Matthew 5:23-24** If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

**Matthew 6:14-15** For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Matthew 18:21-22** Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."

**Mark 11:25** Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

**Luke 6:37** Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Colossians 3:12-13** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

## **Heidelberg Catechism**

*What does the request "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" mean?*

Our Father in heaven, because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors. Amen. (Q/A 126)

## **Song**

**Psalm 59:16** *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

***Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*** (Psalter Hymnal #266)

Forgive our sins as we forgive  
You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But you alone can grant us grace  
To live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
The unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs and will not let  
Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us;  
How great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
And bid resentment cease;  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love  
Our lives will spread your peace.

("Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive", Rosamond E. Herklots (1969), Oxford University Press, CCLI #358926 Streaming License #20317932)

## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14* If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Lord, as duly as we pray every day for our daily bread, we pray for the forgiveness of our sins; for we are all held accountable to God, we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We all stumble in many ways every day. Who can tell how often he stumbles? If you should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. God, be merciful to us sinners!

The Scripture has concluded us all under sin; we have practiced such things as deserve death things for which the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Our debt is more than ten thousand talents; it is a great debt, and we cannot pay.

But blessed be God, if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins. For his sake, we entreat you, blot out all our transgressions, and enter not into judgment with us. Through him let us be reconciled to God, and let the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands be cancelled and set aside, being nailed to the cross of Christ, that we may be made alive together with Christ, having all our trespasses forgiven us. Be merciful toward our iniquities, and remember our sins no more.

And as an evidence that you have forgiven our sins, we plead with you, give us grace to forgive our enemies, to love those who hate us and bless those who curse us; for we acknowledge that if we do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will our Father forgive our trespasses. And therefore we forgive, Lord; we desire heartily to forgive, if we have a complaint against another, as the Lord has forgiven us. Far be it from us to say that we will repay evil, or that we should avenge ourselves; but we pray that all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander may be put away from us, along with all malice; and that we may be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us. O make us merciful, even as our Father who is in heaven is merciful, who has promised that with the merciful he shows himself merciful.

(from Matthew Henry's Method for Prayer)