

## Learning To Pray - 5

*"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."* Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV

**Jesus taught His disciples this pattern of prayer:**

- 1. Worship**
- 2. Declaration**
- 3. Provision**
- 4. Forgiveness**
- 5. Protection**
- 6. Thanksgiving**

### **IV. THE FOURTH PRAYER TOPIC: FORGIVENESS**

Why would God ask me to forgive someone who hurt me deeply?

**Why forgive?**

#### **1. BECAUSE GOD HAS FORGIVEN US.**

*"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* Matthew 6:14-15 NIV

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* Ephesians 4:32 NIV

*"Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."* Colossians 3:13 NKJV

#### **2. BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE IS BITTERNESS.**

*"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."* Hebrews 12:15 NIV

*(Parable of the unforgiving servant)*

*"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.*

*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?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

*This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."*

Matthew 18:26-35 NIV

## How to forgive:

### 1. MAKE A **QUALITY DECISION** TO FORGIVE.

*"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"*

Matthew 18:21-22 NIV

### 2. ASK GOD TO **HELP YOU**.

*"For nothing is impossible with God."* Luke 1:37 NIV

### 3. EVERY TIME THEY COME TO YOUR MIND, START **BLESSING THEM IN PRAYER**.

*"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."* Luke 6:27-28 NKJV

*"Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.'"* Luke 23:34 NKJV

### 4. DO **GOOD** AND **FIND MEANING** IN YOUR SUFFERING.

*"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."* Romans 12:19-21 NIV