

Lord's Prayer Devotion

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and **forgive us our sins as forgive those who sin against us**; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The catechism states: "We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor deny such petitions on account of them; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them; but that He would grant them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much, and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. So will we verily, on our part, also heartily forgive and also readily do good to those who sin against us."

The Church father Chemnitz says: "The word 'forgive' will not allow the thought that it is our payment, our work, or our satisfaction, but only allows forgiveness to be considered as a free gift. The Greeks translate the Hebrew word 'forgiving' as "to be gracious, merciful, and pardoning.""

In the case of a Christian such repentance continues until death, for all through life it contends with the sins that remain in the flesh.

We are constantly forgiving individuals because individuals are constantly in need of forgiveness. It should be obvious from this text and many others in Scripture that what God forgives us is vastly more than what we forgive our fellowmen.

If Christ had insisted upon his rights, if he had been interested in maintaining only his reputation, if he taken umbrage at every unfounded charge against him, as we generally behave, there would have been no cross, no self-sacrifice on our behalf, no forgiveness of our faults, no reconciliation to God our Father. Whenever I see myself before God and realize something of what my blessed Lord has done for me at Calvary, I am ready to forgive anybody anything. (Keller p. 123)