

Forgiveness #1

Read Matthew 6:12

*My Father, holy and loving,
forgive me.
I have been wrong in
my thoughts,
my words, and
my actions.
I have failed to trust You,
and I've fallen short of
Your perfect and wonderful will.
Forgive me, Lord.
Restore me.
And help me forgive those who have wronged me.*

If you wrote down a list of your most pressing needs, what would it include? Notice that 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. The next one seeks to avoid them in the future.

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're going to maintain a healthy, intimate, unbroken relationship with a holy God, a time of confession and forgiveness is essential.

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 freely, gladly forgive us.

Hymn: [Song of Confession](#)

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