

*Forgive us our debts (Matthew 6:12, NIV)*

*Forgive us our sins (Luke 11:4, NIV)*

If my bicycle swerves and hits a parked car, I will have to compensate the owner for the damage done. Our actions have consequences. We often ignore how our actions affect others around us, but they do.

When we sin, even privately, we do damage, we cause pain to others, we inflict wounds, we cause separation and division. This happens in families, in the church, in work situations... Sadly, sin is an inextricable part of who we are. However hard we try, there is always more sin to deal with in our lives. Living in the light of God, we begin to realize more and more how true this is.

It is even more true in our relationship with God. He is the one who gave us life and who provides for us on a daily basis and accepts us - warts and all. Yet we do not even bother to say thank you. Instead, we go round doing damage to his creation and hurting others, rather than living up to his standards and fulfilling the destiny He has designed for us.

We owe the Lord an infinite debt of gratitude! And we owe the people around us a continuing debt of love (Rom 13:8, NIV)! So we do need to pray for forgiveness. And resting in that forgiveness, new things become possible.

*Prayer: Think about where you went wrong or caused damage. Ask forgiveness and receive that forgiveness so that you can leave this behind and start over.*