

Forgive Us|Deliver Us  
Bethany Assembly of God  
3/24/2024

**Central Proposition: You need God's help with sin.**

**Introduction**

I was thinking about the common denominator in the requests from the Lord's prayer we're going to cover today, requests for forgiveness and deliverance. Both of those relate to sin: one to our need when we have sinned, and the other a request to help us not give in to sin. Talking about sin isn't very trendy, even in some churches. But freedom from sin is central to the Gospel, and Jesus' prayer reminds us of how to deal with it.

**1. You should pray and practice forgiveness.** See Psalm 32:1-5 and 51:3-4.

When we pray, we stop running *from* God and we run *to* God. There, His mercy expressed through the cross of Jesus Christ covers sins of commission and sins of omission—the things we've done wrong and the right things we failed to do. Jesus spoke of sin like a debt; it's a debt we owe to God. If you've ever been in a position that you owed someone something you couldn't pay, you understand why Jesus refers to sin as debt to God. You could apologize to the person you sinned against and ask their forgiveness, and that's good, but it doesn't get to the heart of the problem. We should seek forgiveness from others, but ultimately, sin is against God and it can't be dealt with in any other court but God's.

Jesus includes the next line in the prayer, "as we also have forgiven our debtors." He goes so far as to say, "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 6:14–15. If you are unwilling to forgive others, it demonstrates you don't really understand God's forgiveness, have not received it, and cannot receive it. Forgiving others is not easy, but it is necessary because without it, how can you claim to take God's forgiveness seriously? The debt you owe Him is so much greater than what is owed you and willingness to forgive indicates a truly repentant heart that has been forgiven by God.

**2. You should pray for deliverance from evil.**

Praying for forgiveness sets the stage to pray for deliverance. The request, "Lead us not into temptation" does not imply that God tempts people to sin and we're asking Him not to. The thought is not "do not cause us to fall into temptation" but "cause us not to fall into temptation." Over and over again in life, we are presented with choices. Praying for strength to resist temptation is the beginning of making the right choices. Jesus is not an aloof God who does not know what it is like to suffer or go through temptation. He knows exactly what it is like and will help you overcome temptation when you go through it. The primary intent of this prayer is that God will help you not give in to the demands of the evil around you. This prayer means that we should take sin and temptation seriously and I want to remind you that this prayer is a model that was intended to be used and repeated

The battle of temptation is real and it is constant in our lives. Jesus' model prayer teaches us that prayer is not only a means of asking God for what we want, but for strengthening ourselves in the Lord so that we

aren't swayed by every fleshly desire or demonic temptation, but that we are anchored to Christ and walking in victory.