

Wisdom Not Worry
Monday, June 22, 2020

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

In your mind, what is the strength of your relationship with the Father based on? Is it performance or pardon? If you question God's love for you when you remember your failures or you think God loves you more when you are confident in your love for Him, you have a performance-based relationship. Performance-based relationships are exhausting and uncertain!

By teaching us to pray daily, "Forgive us our debts", Jesus is exposing the weld that binds us to Him. It's not our performance. It's His pardon. John Onwuchekwa, in a marvelous little book on prayer writes, "As often as we pray for bread, we're to pray for forgiveness. In so doing we're daily reminded of at least two things: (1) our consistent failings, and (2) God's eagerness to forgive. To miss a day of praying this way is to spend a day where I'm tempted to think that God and I are okay because of my performance. That's never been the case, nor will it ever be."

Not to burst your bubble, but you are a failure. So am I. God says so – "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). So, let's stop trying to make God a liar by our foolish and futile attempts to perform our way in to a relationship with Him. It can't be done. Instead, come to Jesus, seek His forgiveness and He will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

Rest. Rest in His pardon. This is the gospel. This is good news. This is the glue that unites us to Him.

Grateful,
Pastor Ben