



FAITH MAIL

December 2023



Praying Yahshua's Prayer (4)

Brothers and Sisters,

This well-known Prayer contains several important lessons for us, but perhaps the most challenging is the fifth appeal: "...forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us" (Matthew 6:12, NLT). It can be difficult to say this part of the Prayer because we're not always ready to forgive. Nevertheless, we must either pray the entire Prayer or none of it.

On our journey of discipleship, we may sometimes stumble and do wrong things. At these times, we need Yahweh's mercy and grace to cleanse us from guilt and restore our relationship with Him. So, we ask Him to pardon our sins, and He readily does so (1 John 2:1-2). However, in forgiving us, He expects us to forgive those who sin against us, meaning those who have hurt, offended, or wronged us. This is never easy because we often feel angry, bitter, or resentful towards them. We may hold a grudge, want to get even, or avoid them altogether. But Yahshua tells us to forgive them, just as Yahweh forgives us (Matthew 6:14).

Forgiveness is good! Good for the person who receives it but also for the person who gives it. When we forgive others, we free ourselves from the burden of hatred and bitterness that weighs us down. We also show that we're trusting Yahweh to judge all wrongs and work things out for our good (Romans 8:28).

Forgiveness is a powerful tool that paves the way for reconciliation and peace. We experienced this, firsthand, when we repented of our sins and enjoyed a restored relationship with our Heavenly Father. Similarly, forgiving others can often lead to the same outcome, although it's not guaranteed. Our Father is a God of *second chances*. As His children, we should strive to follow His example.

Here's the bottom line: forgiveness is a two-way street. We can't expect to receive what we're not willing to give. We can't claim to love Yahweh if we don't love our neighbours. We can't enjoy Yahweh's forgiveness if we don't forgive others (Matthew 6:15). This truth is fundamental for all who aspire to be like the Master.

**The one who has truly repented
and experienced Yahweh's
forgiveness will himself forgive
those who sin against him.**

A.A.W

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