

Luke 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Analysis

Jesus teaches: 'And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.' This petition acknowledges ongoing need for forgiveness—even believers sin daily, requiring daily forgiveness. The phrase 'for we also forgive' isn't earning forgiveness through forgiving others but demonstrating that forgiven people forgive. The Greek 'gar' (γάρ, for) indicates explanation, not condition—we forgive because we're forgiven. 'Every one that is indebted to us' (Greek 'panti opheilonti hēmin,' παντὶ ὀφείλουντι ἡμῖν) means everyone owing us anything—injuries, offenses, debts. Forgiveness received produces forgiveness given.

Historical Context

Debt and forgiveness language pervaded first-century economic and social relations. 'Sins' (Greek 'hamartias,' ἁμαρτίας) and 'debts' (Matthew 6:12) were used interchangeably—sin is debt owed to God, which we cannot pay. God's forgiveness cancels infinite debt. The connection between receiving and giving forgiveness appears throughout Jesus' teaching (Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-35). Unforgiveness in believers reveals they haven't grasped how much they've been forgiven. The early church emphasized reconciliation and forgiveness as marks of authentic Christianity. Forgiving others demonstrates we've experienced God's forgiveness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the connection between receiving and giving forgiveness reveal the nature of genuine Christian character?
2. What does praying 'forgive us our sins' daily teach about ongoing need for grace even after conversion?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀφίεμεν ἡμῖν· τὰς ἁμαρτίας ἡμῶν καὶ γὰρ αὐτοὶ
And **forgive** **to us** G3588 **sins** **our** **And** **for** G846
G2532 G863 G2254 G266 G2257 G2532 G1063

ἀφίεμεν παντὶ ὀφείλουντι ἡμῖν· καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκης
forgive **every one** **that is indebted** **to us** **And** **not** **lead**
G863 G3956 G3784 G2254 G2532 G3361 G1533

ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ
us **into** **temptation** **but** **deliver** **us** **from** G3588
G2248 G1519 G3986 G235 G4506 G2248 G575

πονηροῦ
evil
G4190

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:41 (Parallel theme): Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Colossians 3:13 (Parallel theme): Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Matthew 18:35 (Parallel theme): So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Daniel 9:19 (Parallel theme): O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

Psalms 25:18 (Sin): Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (Parallel theme): There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

John 17:15 (Evil): I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Luke 8:13 (Parallel theme): They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

Luke 22:46 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

James 2:13 (Parallel theme): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.