



Jesus viewed the world as a conflict between His kingdom and the kingdom of Satan. His mission was to save all the people of the world from the Kingdom of Satan and bring them into His kingdom. Jesus chose 12 men to help Him fulfill His mission.

Jesus spent three- and one-half years preparing these men for the war they would fight. He taught them how to use spiritual weapons of warfare to defeat Satan.

One of those spiritual weapons was prayer. Jesus taught His disciples to pray in a very specific way.

[Luke 11:1-4](#)

1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

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Today we are going to continue to unpack verse 4

4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

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Last week we learned...

[To receive forgiveness of sins from God, God requires repentance of sin and atonement for sin.](#)

We learned from the book of Hebrews that Jesus atoned for the sins of the world once and for all.

[Heb 9:12](#)

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

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For those who repent of their sins and receive Jesus as the atonement for their sins, God's judgment for sin is fully satisfied.

If you repent of your sins and receive Jesus, God's judgment against you is canceled because the judgment for your sin has been paid. God no longer keeps a record of your sins to justify judging you for your sins. The record of your sins has been expunged.

So why did Jesus teach His disciples to continue to repent of their sins and ask God the Father for forgiveness of sin if He knew He was going to atone for their sins?

He certainly did not want them to believe there was still a need for atonement for their sins.

He certainly did not want them to believe that God the Father would reject them if they sinned.

- Jesus wanted His disciple's relationship with the Father to grow in mutual trust

Trust is an act of our will. We either choose to trust someone or something or we choose not to trust them.

Trust is a mental and emotional bond that is based on our faith in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

Trust can grow and diminish through our experience. Our trust in someone can grow as we get to know them. Or our trust in them can diminish as we get to know them. People or things earn our trust as we experience them, and we discover that they are trustworthy.

Trust is earned!

The more we trust someone, the closer we feel to them.

In the church we spend a lot of time encouraging one another to trust God. Life is difficult. Sin is appealing. The devil is deceitful. Unbelief in God is a serious threat to our soul and our testimony as disciples of Jesus. Our faith in God is always under attack.

Heb 3:12-13

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

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God has already done everything He could possibly do to earn our trust.

- He has revealed Himself to us through creation
- He has revealed Himself to us through our moral conscience

- He has revealed Himself to us through His commands
- He has revealed Himself to us through Christ

If you think God should reveal Himself to you in some other way to gain your trust, your expectations are unrealistic, and you are deceived. He might do something more for you than He has done for the rest of the world, but I would encourage you to base your faith on something more secure than just your personal experience. Job is a great example!

While we spend a lot of time in the church encouraging one another to trust God, we do not spend a lot of time challenging one another to become a person God can trust!

This was a challenge that the prophets gave to the Jews, Jesus gave to His disciples, and the apostles gave to the church.

The Jews

2 Chronicles 16:7

9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

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The disciples of Jesus

Matthew 25:14-30-parable of the talents

The church

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

4 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

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2 Timothy 2:2

2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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Moses is an example of a man that God trusted.

Numbers 12:6-8

6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

7 Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.

8 I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"

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In any relationship, trust can be damaged by sin.

## Sin hurts people and damages trust in relationships.

It is one reason why God hates sin so much.

How do you begin to rebuild trust in any relationship when trust has been damaged by your sin?

1. You go to the one you have sinned against
2. You acknowledge you were wrong
3. You apologize for the pain you caused them
4. You ask for their forgiveness

- The benefit for you is that you gain a clear conscience. You have done your part.
- The benefit for the other person is it might help them release bitterness.
- The benefit for your relationship is it can begin a restoration of trust.
- The benefit for your reputation is that you are blameless.

This is how you begin to rebuild trust in any relationship. To continue building trust you will need to demonstrate repentance of your sin and that takes time. Depending on the relationship you may need to become responsible in some ways you have not been responsible.

The truth is your sin could be so heinous that the other person will never trust you. But to begin to rebuild trust in any relationship, you go to the one you have sinned against, you acknowledge you were wrong, you apologize for the pain you caused them, and you ask them to forgive you.

The great thing about God the Father is that you cannot commit a sin against Him that is so heinous that He will not only forgive you but will work with you to build His trust in you. He will never leave you or forsake you. He will do everything in His power to help you become trustworthy. He is a loving Father. He wants to bless you.  
(examples: David, Peter, all the disciples, John Mark, the story of the prodigal son)

So why did Jesus teach His disciples to continue to repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness of sin if He knew He was going to atone for their sins?

Jesus wanted His disciple's relationship with the Father to grow in mutual trust.

- Jesus wanted His disciples to avoid giving Satan an opportunity to use them for his purposes.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."  
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If we are unrepentant of our sins, God will allow us to be tempted and oppressed by Satan.

Unconfessed sin is an invitation to the devil to oppress us.

If Christ lives in you, you cannot be possessed by the devil. But you can be oppressed. You can be in bondage to sin and in bondage to him. Satan can torment you mentally and emotionally.

To avoid this, we need to live a transparent life before God, especially when other people offend us.

There are two sins of the heart that Jesus talked about and the apostles warned the church about that we all need to take very seriously.

[James 3:14-15](#)

[14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.](#)

[15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.](#)

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Greed and bitterness!

These two sins of the heart work together. There is something we want or feel like we deserve and when we do not get it, we experience bitterness. Bitterness is not grief.

[Bitterness is a condition in our soul when we are offended.](#)

The Greek word for bitterness means sharp. If the offense in our soul is not resolved through forgiveness, our behavior, our attitude, and our emotions, will be sharp and painful to others.

James said these sins of greed and bitterness are demonic. I envision these two sins of the heart as being like a magnet that attracts the devil.

[Ephesians 4:26-27](#)

[26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,](#)

[27 nor give place to the devil.](#)

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The writer of Hebrews said this about the destructive power of bitterness.

[Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

[14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:](#)

[15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;](#)

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Greed and bitterness are the greatest root causes of addiction.

Hebrews 12:14-16

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

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Bitterness grieves the Holy Spirit in us.

Ephesians 4:29-32

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

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To avoid this trap, Jesus and His apostles taught His disciples to be content with daily bread and keep their soul free of offense. To keep their soul free of offense, they needed to forgive even as they had been forgiven by God in Christ.

Forgiving someone means to send away or release to God the debt others personally owe you for their sin.

How have other people sinned against you?

What debt do others owe you for their sin?

Since Jesus already paid for their debt, why are you holding on to it? Forgiving others is sending away the offenses of others by recognizing that Jesus has already paid their sin debt.

This frees you to love people just as they are!

Forgiving others may need to be a daily exercise in our prayers. With some people in your life forgiving them in prayer may need to occur many times a day.

When God the Father sees one of His children forgiving others, God says, "Now there is a child I can trust. They are being like my Son Jesus."

So why did Jesus teach His disciples to continue to repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness of sin if He knew He was going to atone for their sins?

- Jesus wanted His disciple's relationship with the Father to grow in mutual trust.

- Jesus wanted His disciples to avoid giving Satan an opportunity to use them for his purposes.

What needs to happen in your life for God to trust you?

- Saved (Romans 10:9-13)

It is only through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ that you can follow Jesus and become a person that God can trust. You receive His resurrection power by repenting of your sin and trusting in Jesus to be the atonement for your sin.

- Surrender (Romans 12:1-2)

As children of God who are broken by sin, when you sin, go to God in prayer, acknowledge you were wrong, apologize for the pain you caused Him, and ask Him to forgive you.

Don't do this to atone for your sins. Do this because you want Him to trust you and you want His trust in you to grow.

Two of the sins that you will need to confess most frequently are greed and bitterness.

As you confess these sins, forgive the debt of those who have sinned against you. Say in prayer....

I forgive \_\_\_\_\_.

As you pray in these ways, you are going to mature spiritually. The more you mature, the more God is going to trust you with those things that are most important to Him.