

"Pray, our Father who is in heaven... Forgive us of our sins.. if you don't forgive others your Father in heaven will not forgive You." (Matt. 6)

We need God when life knocks us down - our child turns to drugs; we lose our jobs; medical bills take all our savings; etc. What we need is God's help and so we pray.

What we forget though, is that prayer has conditions. Just because we say the words does not mean we get the help. We have to be the right kind of person saying the words. One condition is a life where we to obey God and if we are not obeying God our prayers rise no higher than the ceiling.

1 John 3:21 / 5:4

"We know He will give us what we asked for because we obey him and try to please him.. This is the confidence we have, that if we ask anything in accordance with His will he hears us."

I like the words, **"try to please him"** We don't obey so we will get things from God, we obey because we love God. Jesus said if you love me keep my commands. 1 Jn, 5 says **"this is love for God, keeping His commands"**.

We can obey God without loving Him, but we cannot love Him without obeying Him."

The Pharisees obeyed God's OT rules but when God came to them, they called him a servant of Satan and had him nailed to a cross.

GETTING OUT OF PRISON

The truth is, when we refuse to forgive, we become that person's prisoner. We are in a restaurant having fun with our family and when he or she walks in, we feel uncomfortable. if you don't forgive you're letting that person keep on hurting you. The truth is - they are probably glad they still upset you.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORGIVE?

"Love them / do good for them / pray for them / bless them / If they are hungry feed them." (Many verses)

These Bible instructions all come from Christian love which does not require feelings. They are what we do whether we feel like it or not. Christian love can be a feeling but you don't have to have good feelings or like someone to forgive them. Every case is different.

To be honest there are some people we just don't want to be around and I may be wrong but sometimes that's the best thing to do for yourself and those you love.

That has been my response before and after I became a Christian. I put them out of my universe. If I'm in a restaurant having a good time with my family they walk in, it is like a stranger, someone I do not know walking in.

Some of my preacher friends said that's not forgiveness. I wondered about it and then God showed me Titus 3:10,

"Warn a divisive person twice and then have nothing more to do with them."

If your conscience is your friend, you do not have to worry about your enemies

Thank God for your enemies, a lot of what they say about us is right

Love your enemies but if you really want to get under their skin, ignore them completely

Nobody can have too many friends but one enemy is one too many

It is a lot easier to love our enemies than to get them to love us

The difference between a friend and an enemy is this: A friend loves us in spite of our faults and our enemies dislike us in spite of our virtues.