



Church of Perth Intercessory Team

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

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FORGIVENESS IS DIVINE

Forgiveness is an important concept to the Christian faith. It reflects God's grace to us. God takes it seriously and the doctrine of the atonement is the very heart of the good news of forgiveness. Just as God forgives us, He expects us to forgive those who wrong us. There can be no intimacy with God in Christ and no love for others in an unbelieving heart where bitterness and unforgiveness dwell. Where there is forgiveness, there is freedom. A forgiving heart results from a life that God has touched and blessed. It results in spiritual power, emotional healing and sweet fellowship with God.

True forgiveness reflects the divine nature which erases every resenting thought and attitude, healing every hurt and guilt feeling, restoring the relationship with the offender. Jesus Christ spoke of unconditional forgiveness towards enemies. Christ's message of forgiveness is the only practical solution for a nation's wounds and the only way to reconciliation and national unity.

Forgiveness must be taught and practiced. Through forgiveness and prayers we can break the chains that enslave people to their past. We need to restore morality to our nation. Too often, we have been negligent in accepting the Christian faith. Important questions cannot be correctly decided until there is sincere repentance. We need to return to faith in Christ. Atheism claims that religion divides people. Love of God can only unite. Redemptive fellowship is built on the basis of trust and love.

Jesus has set us the perfect example. He commanded us to forgive our enemies. He never refused to meet his adversaries. He opposed policies but not personalities. He countered violence with non-violence and hatred with love. If we follow His example, we will create a redeemed society and achieve reconciliation within our community. The power of God's grace will disarm our own pride, lust, greed and stubborn evil. This is God's purpose for His people, "The gates of hell will not prevail against it." Evil will not withstand an assault of grace together with a shield of consistent and fervent prayers.

The Creator made us moral and spiritual beings. God gave us our conscience that is designed to warn us when we have done wrong. It is God's plan to keep us in right relationship with Him and with others. Firstly, He reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ. Believe, confess and accept JESUS as your Lord and Saviour and He will cleanse you of all your sins with His shed blood on the cross at Calvary. Then know that you are a child of God, born in the Spirit.

Secondly, when you do sin, immediately put it right with God. Confess that sin to Him, acknowledge your wrong and He will forgive you. His Word says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us of all our sins" (1John 1:9). If you have wronged someone and there is a breach in your relationship, be sure to apologise or recompense him/her.

Perhaps the hardest person to persuade to forgive you is not God, not others but yourself. However, if we are to find peace of mind that is what we must do. Surely if God forgives us, we can forgive ourselves too. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12)

We are forgiven as we in turn forgive others. Therefore, we can pray "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12) To sin is human, to forgive divine. Know God's peace as you forgive others, forgive yourself and thank God for His forgiveness.

Our Prayer.

Our loving Father, we wholeheartedly glorify You and thank You for Your faithfulness. We thank You for Your covenant of grace and the riches of Your grace that is only in Jesus Christ. Sovereign Lord, we thank You for bridging the gap and reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus Christ.

We thank You for Your involvement in our lives as our Lord and Saviour. You sustain us in our daily trials. You guide us closer to You daily. We thank You for Your Good News which is Your power unto salvation (Romans 1:12). We acknowledge that all Your promises are true, righteous and just.

Gracious Father, we thank You for not only providing Jesus Christ for our salvation but in giving Him to us as Lord, Friend and Brother. We thank You for the joy You give us and the strength You provide. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit, our Counsellor and Guide.

We join the heavenly hosts in prayer asking You to release the Spirit of repentance, forgiveness and obedience to Your Word in our nation. Father, we join in prayer with our government and civic leaders who believe in You and abide in You. May You empower them by Your Spirit to be channels of Your love and blessing to our nation. May they cause Your healing waters to flow out to the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and proclaim Your Good News to the poor.

We pray that our children will be taught Your Word in our schools and tertiary institutions. We pray that they will know their God and His saving grace for them. We ask this in Jesus' majestic and powerful name.

Amen

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Fruitful New Year 1999!

C.O.P.I.T. - Led by our LORD JESUS CHRIST by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT to glorify GOD THE FATHER with the Brotherhood of Humanity, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' Name. Amen and Glory.