

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Luke 11:1-4 “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.’ 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. Give us day by day our daily bread. *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.”

Quote: “God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination.” Augustine

The Puritan preacher, Thomas Brooks wrote that “Repentance is a grace, and must have its daily operation, as well as other graces. A true penitent must go on from faith to faith, from strength to strength; he must never stand still or turn back. True repentance is a continued spring, where the waters of godly sorrow are always flowing. ‘My sin is ever before me’.” Brooks echoes the sentiments of such lovers of God as David whom he quoted and the Apostle Paul who, long after entrusting his soul by faith into the watch care of the Lord Jesus Christ, referred to himself as “the chief of sinners.” The more believers grow in the grace and knowledge of God, the more aware of our sin we become, and the greater becomes our gratitude for God’s longsuffering. Our confession of sin is likewise driven by a desire for unimpaired fellowship with the Father Who is “faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”¹

Prayer— Repentance

In the 1800’s, J. C. Ryle reminded Christians that “True repentance is no light matter. It is a thorough change of heart about sin, a change showing itself in godly sorrow and humiliation— in heartfelt confession before the throne of grace— in a complete breaking off from sinful habits, and an abiding hatred of all sin. Such repentance is the inseparable companion of saving faith in Christ.” In addition to saving faith, true

repentance unto salvation is accompanied by reformation. God sanctifies, or “makes (us) holy, consecrates” us and fits us for service by growing us through His Word.² Charles Spurgeon offered this sober warning about the relationship of true repentance and the progressive change of a life that becomes more and more like Christ. “Another proof of the conquest of a soul for Christ will be found in a real change of life. If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance needs to be repented of and his conversion is a fiction.”

“Jesus expanded the last phrase of Matthew 6:12, “as we forgive our debtors.” He later repeated this lesson to His disciples (Mark 11:19–26). He was not teaching that believers earned God’s forgiveness by forgiving others; for this would be contrary to God’s free grace and mercy. However, if we have truly experienced God’s forgiveness, then we will have a readiness to forgive others (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13). Our Lord illustrated this principle in the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:21–35).³ Forgiveness of others is not an option! “As we forgive our debtors” reminds us of our duty to forgive others as we are forgiven by God. As difficult as it can be to forgive people who have wronged us, it is when we do so that we grow in godliness! Paul wrote, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, *forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.*”⁴ Forgiveness “is a promise not to hold the sin against the offender any longer, not to bring up the issue again to anyone and not to dwell upon the offense.”⁵ Failure to forgive others does not forfeit true salvation; however, it forfeits the peace and fellowship that comes with obedience. What if God handled our many offenses against Him as we handle the offenses of others towards us? Could we dare to pray, “Father, forgive me for my offenses against You just like I forgive others for their offenses against me?” May God give us gratitude for the grace that He shows to us and may it be reflected in the grace that we show to others!⁶

1 | John 1:9 2 Strong’s Concordance; John 17:17; John 15 3 D.A. Carson
4 Ephesians 4:31-32 5 NANC 6 Luke 7:36-50