

Moving from **giving** (daily bread) to **forgiving** (debts / sins).

God's Nature

*'compassionate and gracious...
slow to anger, abounding in love
and faithfulness, maintaining love
to thousands, **forgiving...sin'***

Exodus 34:6-7

God is light.

In him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

Matthew calls sin 'debts' (hoba).

God can forgive sin for his justice
was satisfied by Jesus (1 John 2:1).

If we confess our sin honestly, God is faithful to His promise to forgive (Jer 31:34).

This prayer is given to the Church.
These are words for all believers.

Honesty results in repentance.
Repent as far as the sin has gone.

The way of the world is revenge.

Our Need

What comes out of a person is what
defiles them. For it is from within, out
of a person's heart, that evil thoughts
come—*sexual immorality, theft, murder,
adultery greed, malice, deceit, lewdness,
envy, slander, arrogance and folly.* All these
evils come from inside and defile a person.

Mark 7:20-23

We owe God a debt of total loyalty and we
owe our neighbor tireless charity, but we do
not make good on our payment to either.

**'I had a debt I could not pay;
He paid the debt He did not owe.'**

**'And forgive us our debts, as we
also have forgiven our debtors.'**

Forgiveness is not mathematical!
If we are counting we are not forgiving.
(Matthew 18:21-22)

The way of Jesus is reconciliation.

We all agree forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it.

C. S. Lewis

**Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32**