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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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## The Gateway to Freedom

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“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”  
Matthew 6:12 ESV

### **The Gateway to Freedom**

As we continue through the Lord’s prayer, this is the line or phrase that makes me the most anxious. Someone once asked me, “Are you free?” I confess, my immediate answer was *Yes! I’ve been set free by the blood of the Lamb*. But as I pondered a little longer I realized, while God had set me free I was still carrying around a load of bitterness and grief because I had not forgiven several people in my life and this fact kept me chained and enslaved.

Author Lysa TerKeurst explains, “If we wait for another person to forgive or to apologize or to validate our feelings then we have the wrong definition of forgiveness. Offering forgiveness does not mean that what the other did was right, but forgiveness is the only open door to healing within ourselves. *Forgiveness starts with us.*”

Is there someone who has hurt you? Someone who has caused you more pain than you can even put into words? A situation that continues to plague you? I know from my own experiences that forgiveness is not easy. But we can have confidence and strength in the knowledge that just before this verse, we’ve already been instructed to pray: “Give us this day our daily bread.” First, our Heavenly Father is eager to baptize us with His Spirit afresh *today* in order that we may forgive those people in our lives who may have wronged us. Second, He knows exactly what we need and will provide it for us, so if we need encouragement - He will shower us with it. If we need humility, grace, and courage to approach someone who has wronged us - He will supply it. If we need professional counseling to help us be able to take this step towards forgiveness - He can open the doors.

It may also be that there is someone if your life *you* have wronged, God will also fit you with everything you need to be able to humbly approach that person and ask *them* for forgiveness.

Today is a great day to start healing, to walk into the *complete* freedom Christ gives to us. If you want to walk through that gateway and into freedom, then today is a great day to practice the forgiveness of Jesus. May you be richly blessed as you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week by practicing this next portion of the Lord’s Prayer.

### Challenge & Upcoming Events:

- Seven different faculty and staff members shared their personal stories of forgiveness, finding their identity and purpose, healing, and so much more this past week as a part of **Fall Week of Prayer**. If you missed out, please visit our [livestream page](#) to be able to watch any of the programs.
- Don’t miss out on a special weekend event **November 15 & 16 called Step Forward**, a collaboration between the Chaplain’s Office, School of Counseling graduate program and Counseling Services. Beginning at Vespers on Nov 15 we’ll be discussing obstacles to our spiritual growth, Afterglow will be comprised of breakouts diving into a variety of these obstacles, Sabbath School on Nov 16 will

discuss the link between spirituality and mental health, and Sabbath afternoon we'll move into practical steps you can take towards a more holistic life!

- If you are staying on campus for Thanksgiving break want to invite you to sign up to enjoy a home cooked meal and an evening with a faculty, staff, or church member as a part of **Connections Cafe Home Vespers on November 22**. Sign ups close in a week so [sign up today!](#)

-Anna Bennett