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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Forgiveness and Relationship with God

OCTOBER 02ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Matthew 6:9-15

TUESDAY

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When someone wrongs you, what is your biggest concern? Most of us would have to admit we are concerned mainly for ourselves or loved ones. We're filled with anger or hurt, and forgiveness is the last thing on our minds. But how often do we consider that the way we respond will affect our relationship with God?

Sometimes as we say the Lord's Prayer, we may quickly recite, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt. 6:12) without giving the words much thought. But the two verses that follow this prayer remind us how serious forgiveness is. If we don't move past our hurt and anger toward forgiveness, then God will not forgive us. For those of us who have repented of sin and by faith received Jesus Christ as our Savior, all our sins have been forgiven, based on Christ's substitutionary payment on the cross (Col. 2:13-14). Therefore, these verses in Matthew cannot mean a loss of salvation. They instead refer to the barrier unforgiveness causes in our fellowship with God.

Holding on to grievances is a sin. If we allow that to continue, our communion with the Lord will be disrupted until we confess our attitude and forsake it. We understand what this is like when a child refuses to obey his parents. Although their love for him hasn't diminished, there's an unresolved conflict in their relationship.

As God's children, we are called into intimate fellowship with Him. Let's not be like disobedient children who remain under the Father's discipline and therefore miss out on blessings He wants us to have.

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