

The LORD's Prayer

Forgive as We Forgive

Day 1: The Power of Forgiveness

Reading: Colossians 3:12-14

As we begin this journey, let's reflect on the transformative power of forgiveness. In today's reading, Paul urges us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. He emphasizes forgiveness as a crucial aspect of our new identity in Christ. Just as Christ has forgiven us, we are called to forgive others. This forgiveness isn't always easy, but it's essential for our spiritual growth and relationships. Today, consider any grudges or resentments you may be holding. How might releasing these through forgiveness free you to experience more of God's love and grace? Remember, forgiveness is not about forgetting or excusing harmful behavior, but about releasing yourself from the burden of anger and allowing God's healing to work in your life.

Day 2: Overcoming Divisions

Reading: Galatians 3:26-28

Today's passage echoes the sermon's emphasis on unity in Christ transcending human divisions. Paul declares that in Christ, there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. This radical equality challenges us to examine our own biases and prejudices. Are there people or groups you tend to view as "other" or less worthy? How can you actively work to see Christ in all people, regardless of their background or differences? Reflect on how your identity in Christ supersedes all other identities and divisions. Ask God to help you see others through His eyes of love and to break down any barriers in your heart that prevent you from fully embracing the unity we have in Christ.

Day 3: Putting on the New Self

Reading: Ephesians 4:22-24

The sermon spoke about taking off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ. Today's reading expands on this concept, urging us to be renewed in the spirit of our minds and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. This transformation is not a one-time event but an ongoing process. What aspects of your "old self" do you still struggle with? How can you actively cooperate with the Holy Spirit in renewing your mind and attitudes? Consider one specific area where you need renewal and commit to prayerfully working on it this week, trusting in God's power to transform you.

Day 4: The Lord's Prayer as a Model for Living

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13

The sermon highlighted the Lord's Prayer, particularly the challenging line about forgiveness. As you read through the entire prayer today, reflect on how each line serves as a model for our relationship with God and others. How does acknowledging God's holiness shape your approach to life? What does it mean to seek God's kingdom and will in your daily decisions? Consider the request for daily bread – how can you cultivate a spirit of dependence on God for your needs? Finally, meditate deeply on the forgiveness portion. How does your willingness to forgive others reflect your understanding of God's forgiveness towards you? Let this prayer guide your thoughts, actions, and relationships today.

Day 5: Christ in All

Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

We conclude our week with a powerful declaration of Christ's supremacy and all-encompassing nature. The sermon emphasized that "Christ is all and in all." This passage expands on that truth, revealing Christ as the image of the invisible God, the creator and sustainer of all things, and the reconciler of all things to God. As you reflect on these verses, consider the implications for your life. How does recognizing Christ's supremacy over all creation change your perspective on your challenges and relationships? In what areas of your life do you need to more fully acknowledge Christ's lordship? Pray for a deeper awareness of Christ's presence in every aspect of your life and for the strength to live in light of this magnificent truth.