

"There is a saying, 'Love your friends and hate your enemies.' But I say: Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way you will be acting as true sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:43).



This week's prayer topic is all about relationships. Don't dare you stop reading! There are relationships in your life that need a touch from God. Your relationship with others is inseparable from your relationship with God. You are first to love God, and then share this love with others. However, we all know that loving some people is never easy! Yet, Christ commanded that you love others and specifically mentions love your enemies. This means those who have spitefully used you, wronged you or somehow hurt you. Just because they mistreated you doesn't mean they are exempt from loving them.

His famous parable of the Good Samaritan makes it clear that "love your neighbor" means to love all persons, not just those who treat you good. Jesus also said just as He loves all people and is willing to forgive your sins, you must be willing to forgive others who have done wrong to you. *"For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"* (Matthew 6:14-15). This is a serious matter teaching you how anger, holding a grudge or even unforgiveness can block out the love of God from your life. Can I be real? You cannot afford to wait for the other person to repent and apologize to you! *Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for others"* (John 13:35). It's in this passage that you find the Biblical definition for love. Make a point this week to resolve some issues regarding who has hurt you.

Heavenly Father,

I come to You in Jesus Name. I need your help. Loving others can be extremely difficult at times. Yet, Jesus commanded that I am to love You with all of my heart, with all of my mind, with all of my strength, and to love my others as myself." I know that this is more important than anything else that I do. Help me understand that I cannot love apart from You. Help me do whatever is necessary to make things right those I have been struggling with. For I know It is when I remain in Jesus (John 15) and the Holy Spirit remains in me, I am able to bear the fruit of love according to (Galatians 5:22–23). I want to thank You that You do not treat me as my sin deserves or repay me according to my iniquities. Help me to not treat others as they deserve, but to walk in love towards them. Help me to not see with my natural eyes, but to see them as You see them. You know my weakness and weariness, and how strained relationships pull at my heart. Help me to never turn away from Your truth. I ask You to give me discernment to make the right choices concerning strained relationships. By Your Spirit strengthen me so that I am able to persevere to do Your will. Lord, I long for my heart and mind to align under Your Word. May I not conform to the things of this world that tell me to treat others how they treat you, but instead, may I be continually be transformed by the renewing of my mind with Your Word. I look to You alone as the Author and Finisher of my faith.

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