Three Prayers About God Forgiving Others

Does God unconditionally forgive people? Does God demand that Christians unconditionally forgive others?

Introduction

- Many wrongly but sincerely teach that Christians are to forgive others without any condition of repentance being required
- Before giving it thorough study I too believed this misguided and inaccurate teaching
- Does God ever forgive anyone without the condition of repentance?

Introduction

- Does God demand Christians forgive others without the condition of repentance?
- We study three prayers by Jesus, Stephen and Paul to learn about how we must forgive others

On The Cross Jesus Prays For The Father To Forgive His Enemies

Luk 23:32 Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him.

Luk 23:33 When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

On The Cross Jesus Prays For The Father To Forgive His Enemies

Luk 23:34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Luk 23:35 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."

On The Cross Jesus Prays For The Father To Forgive His Enemies

Luk 23:36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine,

Luk 23:37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"

For What Did Jesus Pray?

1. For God to forgive them of murdering Jesus without them obeying the gospel including their repentance?
2. For them to turn to God and obey the gospel by believing in Jesus enough to repent of their sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized for forgiveness of their sins?

Jesus Died For and Prayed For His Enemies To Be Saved By The Gospel

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Mat 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Jesus Died For and Prayed For His Enemies To Be Saved By The Gospel

Mat 5:45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

Jesus' Prayer Began To Be Answered When Thousands First Obeyed The Gospel

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

Act 2:23 this *Man,* delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Jesus' Prayer Began To Be Answered When Thousands First Obeyed The Gospel

Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Jesus' Prayer Began To Be Answered When Thousands First Obeyed The Gospel

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this,* they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' Prayer Began To Be Answered When Thousands First Obeyed The Gospel

Act 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Act 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Jesus' Prayer Began To Be Answered When Thousands First Obeyed The Gospel

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

While Being Stoned To Death Stephen Prays For His Murderers To Be Forgiven

Act 7:52 "Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

Act 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it."

While Being Stoned To Death Stephen Prays For His Murderers To Be Forgiven

Act 7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him.

Act 7:55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

Act 7:56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

While Being Stoned To Death Stephen Prays For His Murderers To Be Forgiven

Act 7:57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

Act 7:58 When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him;* and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Act 7:59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

While Being Stoned To Death Stephen Prays For His Murderers To Be Forgiven

Act 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

1Pe 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

For What Did Stephen Pray?

1. For God to forgive them of murdering him without them obeying the gospel including their repentance?
2. For them to turn to God and obey the gospel by believing in Jesus enough to repent of their sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized for forgiveness of their sins?

Stephen's Prayer Was Answered When Saul Obeyed The Gospel

Act 9:3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

Act 9:4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Stephen's Prayer Was Answered When Saul Obeyed The Gospel

Act 9:5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said,* "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

Act 9:6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

Stephen's Prayer Was Answered When Saul Obeyed The Gospel

Act 9:17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Stephen's Prayer Was Answered When Saul Obeyed The Gospel

Act 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

Act 9:19 and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Facing Death Paul Prays For God To Forgive Treacherous Brethren

2Ti 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

2Ti 4:15 Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.

2Ti 4:16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

Facing Death Paul Prays For God To Forgive Treacherous Brethren

2Ti 4:17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

2Ti 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

For What Did Paul Pray?

1. For God to forgive treacherous brethren of their sins without repentance?
2. For them to turn to God by repenting and praying to receive forgiveness of their sins?

Paul's Prayer Would Be Answered When Brethren Repented and Prayed For Forgiveness

Act 8:21 "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

We Must Always Be Ready To Forgive All Who Repent

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

We Must Always Be Ready To Forgive All Who Repent

Luk 17:3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

We Must Always Be Ready To Forgive All Who Repent

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.