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**Today's Prayer Question**

**Why Should Christ-Followers  
Keep Praying For Forgiveness?**

Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins...  
Luke 11:3-4, NIV

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**WHY Should We Keep Praying  
For Forgiveness?**

**Because, even as  
Christ-followers, we keep sinning!**

1 John 1:8 & 10, NLT  
If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth...If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

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**“Yeah, But...”**

**God has already forgiven ALL my sin – and so now when I sin, my legal standing before the Judge remains unchanged.**

Colossians 2:13-14, NLT & 1:22, NIV

...he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross...he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation...

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**When Christ-Followers Sin...**

**Our legal standing before *the Judge* doesn’t change, but we experience his *fatherly* displeasure and discipline until we confess our sins.**

Psalms 32:3-5, NIV

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

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**True Confessions**

**When we are sincerely sorry about our sins, we pray for transformation as much as forgiveness.**

Psalms 51:10 & 12

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalms 130:3-4, NLT

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.

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### One Bath! Many Spot Washes!

Even though we've already been cleaned up, our "feet" still get grimy as we walk through this dirty world.

John 13: 8-10, NIV

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean..."

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### Spot Washes Come Through Prayers of Confession

God is always ready to clean off our feet! Confessing our sins provides us access to his basin of water!

1 John 1:9, ESV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 19:12, NIV

But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

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### Healthy Self-Examination

Inviting God to expose to us the sin we cannot see because we're too busy or insensitive to notice.

Psalms 139:23-24, NLT

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

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**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious Father in heaven, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed – by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves because we are wrapped up in our own concerns. Have mercy on us, O Lord!

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**Prayer of Confession**

We confess that we own more than we can use and request more than we really need. We too easily give in to the first impulses of greed and gluttony. Driven by our love of comfort and ease, we idolize money and the things money can buy – and envy those who have more than we have. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for our selfish stewardship of the resources you generously provide.

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**Prayer of Confession**

We confess that we are too easily controlled by our fears, worries and lusts. We have run from people and tasks that we know we should face. With disordered hearts and misplaced priorities, we spend time on urgent things rather than important things. We have condoned hatred, prejudice, racism, and injustice rather than advocating what is right and good. Lord, for our cowardly avoidance of hard things, forgive us!

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### Prayer of Confession

We confess our rash, impulsive, and angry outbursts – as well as the moodiness, impatience and irritability that makes us difficult to live and work with. We are too quick to speak and too slow to listen. Our mouths pour out dishonest and unkind words, and we enjoy harboring a critical and unforgiving spirit. We are often more concerned with keep up a good image, than actually being good. Forgive us, Lord!

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### Prayer of Confession

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of prayer and Scripture, our evasion of ministry responsibilities, and our hesitant witness for Christ. You have called us to continue the mission of Jesus in a lost and dying world, and yet we confess that we are too often more apathetic than active, more isolated than involved, more calloused than compassionate. Forgive us, Lord!

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### Prayer of Confession

Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Gracious Father, through the sacrificial death of your Son, have mercy on us and forgive our many sins! Amen!

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