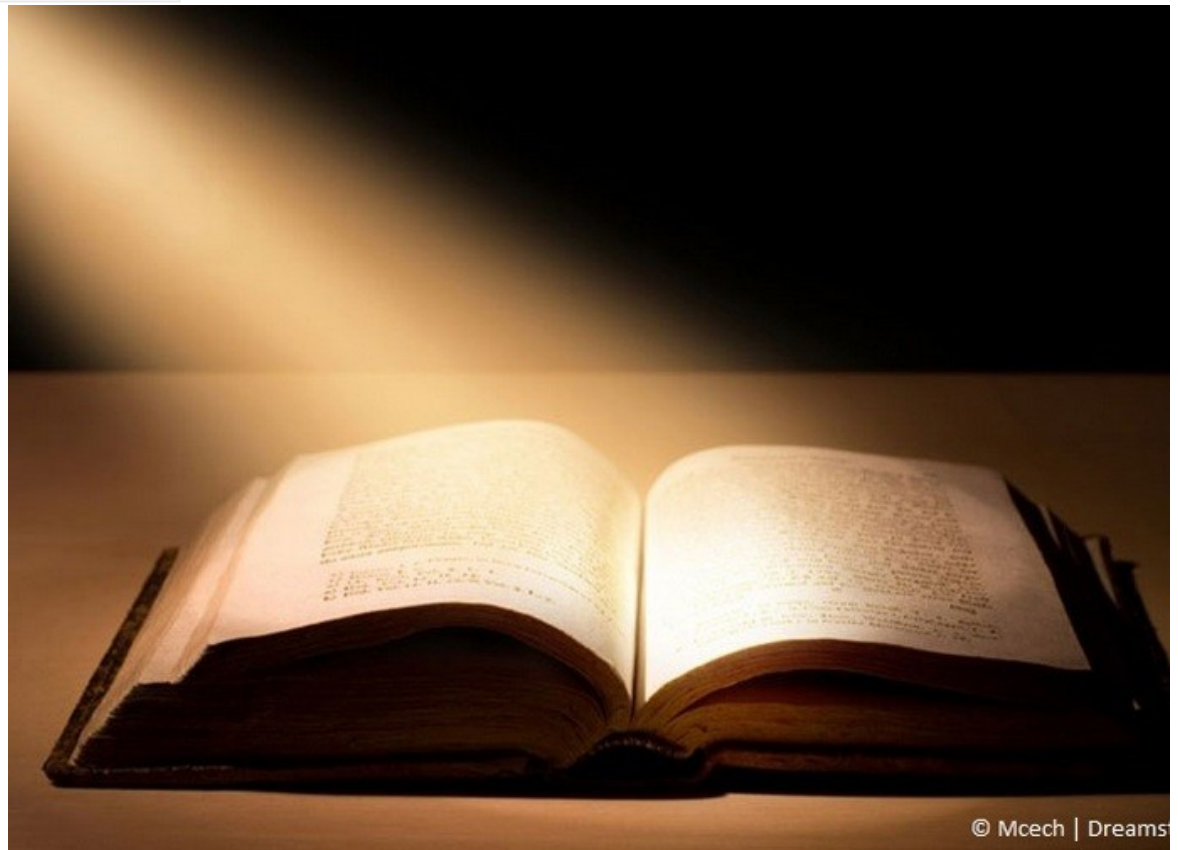


GOSPEL PEARLS

Forgive us our trespasses

GOSPEL PEARLS

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Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I don't tell you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven. Therefore the Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he had begun to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But because he couldn't pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, with his wife, his children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will

repay you all!' The lord of that servant, being moved with compassion, released him and forgave him the debt." "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii, and he grabbed him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you!' He would not, but went and cast him into prison until he should pay back that which was due. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were exceedingly sorry, and came and told their lord all that was done. Then his lord called him in and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, even as I had mercy on you?' His lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. So my heavenly Father will also do to you, if you don't each forgive your brother from your hearts for his misdeeds." When Jesus had finished these words, he departed from Galilee and came into the borders of Judea beyond the Jordan. (Matthew 18: 21 - 19,1)

Those who won't forgive anyone are ungrateful because they do not remember the faults they themselves have committed and which have been forgiven by others or even by God. These unhappy persons, on the other hand, behave pridefully as if they think they don't owe anything to anyone, least of all to God, while ignoring the fact that they, too, are sinners. Prideful persons are unhappy because they fail to realise just how many times God has forgiven them and, therefore, never give thanks to Him. Thus, they do not open themselves to the wonder of His love and so are unable to share it with their debtors through forgiveness. Recite the Our Father and dwell on these words: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Think about who you can forgive for something they have done to you recently and pray for them today.