

## Prayer for Renewal

*“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)*

This phrase of the Lord’s prayer invites us to seek God’s forgiveness. This has both a personal and corporate dimension, the following prayer is a prayer for corporate forgiveness asking God to forgive the church for the times we have failed to go and make disciples. I am reminded of the prayer God asked King Solomon to pray:

*“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

It’s one thing to notice our sin and ask forgiveness, it is another to stop repeating it over and over again. The following prayer will incorporate both.

Let’s pray:

Holy, faithful God, we declare that your love and power is greater than any force on earth. We know that your heart pumps with grace and mercy for all of creation. From the moment you created heaven and earth your desire is to have an intimate relationship with all people. We know that it’s human sin that corrupts our relationship, but we also know that you have made the way for our sin to be forgiven thus reconciling us again to you. Thank you for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that covers and restores us, and thank you that not only are we restored, but we are also given that very same ministry of reconciliation and restoration.

But Father, we confess that as your chosen vessel on earth we your church have failed to faithfully live your heart and mission to go into the world and make disciples of all people and inviting them into your reconciling love.

Forgive us for the times we have lost sight of you.

Forgive us for the times we have worried more about processes rather than outcomes.

Forgive for the times we have allowed our hurts and frustrations to dictate our passion rather than your presence.

Forgive us for the times we have allowed the cares of the world to distract us from your mission.

Forgive us for the times we have been too selfish to change our ways.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to welcome new people into the community of faith.

Forgive us for the times we have judged and criticized people because of their difference.

Help us to love and forgive those who have hurt us.

Holy Spirit, you know that we live in a season of highly regulated activity, and you know how easy it is for us to lose sight of your heart and your mission in the midst of that. Fill us again with the love and power of God so that we can rise above our human frailty and move forward with the same passion and vision of Christ. We declare today that nothing is more important than your mission. So when we are tempted to turn from this remind us again of your call to us, and when we become weary fill us again with a vision of the cross.

Lord, in your mercy, hear the cry of our hearts, and Revive your church! Renew our land! Restore your kingdom reign in the hearts of all people! You alone are worthy of all glory, all honour and all praise! Hallelujah! Amen!