

Mark 11

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 8:00 AM

PRAYER AND FORGIVENESS

And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses. (**Mark 11:25-26**)

A lack of faith is not the only obstacle to effective prayer. Refusing to forgive or holding on to bitterness can also hinder our prayer. The point may also be that this is an area where we need great faith. Sometimes a hard and unforgiving heart is bigger than any mountain.

Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone: This means that we are never to place religious duty or ministry ahead of good relationships with people. We are to set things right first, and then continue in prayer. We are to do what Paul commanded in **Romans 12:18**: If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. If you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses: The forgiven heart will forgive others. If we have hard, unforgiving hearts, it calls into question if we have ever received or appreciated the forgiveness God offers us. (**Guzik**)

Lord, thank you for your forgiveness. Because of your mercy and grace, I want to forgive others as you have forgiven me.