

Father,

We praise you this morning that when we were hopelessly lost in our sin, when we were covered in the filth of our unrighteousness, you intervened! You caused us to hear the gospel as we had never heard it before, so much so that we entrusted our lives to Jesus and turned from our sin. You gave us spiritual eyes to see the beauty of Christ, when before he had looked boring or irrelevant or even offensive. You gave us new life in Jesus, having washed away the stain of our sin and transformed us by your Holy Spirit. Father, help us never to grow complacent or apathetic toward what you have done for us in Christ by your Spirit.

Yet, we confess that this past week, that's exactly what many of us have done. Instead of hearts filled to the brim with love and gratitude for our salvation, we've been marked by a lack of thankfulness, even complaining in our hearts and with our mouths about our circumstances. Instead of being enthralled with Jesus, we've been enthralled with our toys and our devices and our entertainment, and those things have dulled our affections for him. Instead of pursuing Christ and actively submitting our hearts to him, we've pursued our own desires and submitted our hearts to them. Father, forgive us.

Father, because we've struggled to treasure Jesus, we've also failed to share him with those around us particularly our husbands. At times, we're far more content to concern ourselves with our own agenda than serve our spouse or care for his needs. Because our hearts' complacency, we haven't taken one moment to strategize and plan our lives around opportunities to bless him. And even when you've laid before us clear opportunities, we've bypassed them, believing ourselves to be far too busy or to have much more important things to do. Father, forgive us.

Forgive us for our selfishness and our apathy - not because we want so badly to be sincere and not because we pledge to do better - but forgive us for Jesus' sake. Forgive us because he hung on the cross in our place. Forgive us because Jesus satisfied your justice against our sin. Forgive us because you are faithful to your promise that if we confess our sin, you are "faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Father, cause us to love and serve you as those who have been forgiven and given new life in Christ. We ask these things and confess our sin in Jesus' name. Amen.

A prayer of a friend (adapted)