



## OPENING PRAYER

Father, we are thankful for your boundless mercy. Please reshape our hearts and reignite our love for you and guide us in letting go of anything that obstructs our relationship with you—our idols, preconceived ideas, religious routines, traditions, pride, and anger. Heal us from the resentments and offenses we hold onto and help us truly release them.

As we engage in the Repentance Prayers, let us focus on expressing gratitude for who You are, for sending Your Spirit to guide us, and for Your forgiveness, mercy, and compassion. Even when we stray, You never turn away, Your arms are always open, welcoming us back.

## PRAYERS FOR REPENTANCE

We have become guilty of a whole variety of sins. What we have done was not necessarily to rebel against God, but we nonetheless are devastated by our behavior and the consequences. We have eaten forbidden foods, questionable foods, without proper manners and concern for others. There is something lacking in our faith in Elohim, even if it's just sometimes that we have a cruel streak. We have betrayed Yahweh by not observing His commandments properly. We are doing certain sins in a way that is disloyal to God.

We have betrayed family and friends. We have wasted prayer and Torah study time. We relied on ourselves sometimes to the exclusion of trusting in Yahweh. Our lives have become sloppy. We have chosen leadership, scholars, and friends. We have stolen. We have stolen things, time, someone's sleep, others' ideas. We have deceived others. We have been arrogant. We've wrongly taken credit for something, harmed or annoyed others. We've not raised our children properly. We've not been strict enough about sexual behavior, and we've not repaid kindness properly.

We have slandered. We question His justice and kindness. We also slander people. We say one thing and mean something completely different. We have gossiped, defamed, used vulgarities, spoken disrespectfully, shouted, misused the power of speech. We've not given people the benefit of the doubt. We've caused perversion. We've corrupted others. We've entertained improper thoughts during prayer, during the time of learning the Scriptures, or in general. We have burdened others, encroached on another's space, looked at indecent pictures, literature, etc. We've caused wickedness.

We've neglected to be properly respectful of Yahweh and the place of His holy convocation. We've showed lack of concern for the possession of others, said we're sorry without trying to mean it. We fomented dissent. We've joined in rebellion. We've joined with others and wasted time on nonsense. We've sinned intentionally. We caused others to sin. Then we have rationalized our behavior, making teshuva all the more difficult. We've taken God's name in vain by breaking our oaths, been disrespectful to our parents, defended ourselves without taking into consideration the motives and feelings of others.

We've not properly validated the emotions and state of being of those that we've offended, but instead have wickedly added insult to injury by rationalizing our behavior and thus making repentance and restoration all the more difficult to achieve. We have extorted. We have taken advantage of those weaker than us. We've pressured others to give in to us. We have falsely flattered others. We've thought bad thoughts. We've unjustly suspected others of wrongdoing. We've desecrated your Shabbat. We've not paid our debts and we've desired in an unhealthy manner the possessions of others.

We've attached ourselves to falsehood. Lying has become a part of our lives. We've accused others falsely, compounded lies by lying more. We've hung out with the wrong crowd. We've given erroneous opinions and advice. We've defiled others and ourselves. We've belittled good and we've chosen bad. We've given evil counsel. We've abused the trust of others, advised others in ways that are not in their best interest. We've secluded ourselves improperly with members of the opposite sex. We've joined others in time-wasting activities. We've knowingly sinned.

We've lacked proper reverence and awe for God. We've been deceitful. We've made intentionally misleading statements, false promises and have not tried hard enough to keep our word. We have made Hashem angry at us by being ungrateful of the things that He has given us, even in the smallest part. We've intended to harm others even if we didn't. We've wasted time, delayed paying wages, and called others derogatory names. We have scoffed. We have clowned around about matters that we should have treated seriously. We've ridiculed good people.

We've made a joke of things that prevent us from proper repentance because we don't take things seriously enough. We've not learned the Torah properly. We've not been kind and charitable. We've not been meticulous about His commandments, His mitzvah, and halakha, His judgments. We've not been scrupulous in our dealings with others. We've rebelled. We've defied God's will, sinned because of lack of complete faith. We've held others back from doing the commandments and have not behaved properly in business by taking advantage of others. We have worked on your holy Shabbat.

We have provoked. We have angered Yahweh by disregarding His mitzvahs, His commandments. We violated promises and vows. We've taken revenge and borne grudges. We've benefited from the world in greed. We're lazy in learning the scriptures. We've been lazy in learning the scriptures and teaching our children and attending the weekly commanded holy convocation services of Hashem. We have turned away. We've ignored our responsibilities to Yahweh and to our fellow man. We have turned from biblical customs, contradicted our parents or Torah authorities, dealt with contraband, forgiven others in word but not in our hearts.

We have been perverse. We've sinned because of perverted reasoning. We have deliberately sinned to gratify our desires. We have been falsely modest, a burden to our spouse. We've been insensitive to those that we love and to orphans and to widows. We have violated every single prohibition that you have put against us. Lastly, we have wantonly transgressed.

We've denied the validity of some mitzvahs. We say we believe in Yahweh and the Torah but have disregarded a specific commandment that we have been commanded by our Father to keep. We've rejected the yoke of heaven in the process.

We have been afraid to correct, rebuke and encourage someone because of our own insecurities and lack of respect for the precious. We've turned our hearts to idleness. We've opened someone else's mail. We lacked fear of sin and the judgment that follows. Teshuvah includes recognition of sin, stopping sinful behavior, regret for having sinned, commitment not to sin again, making things right with both the offended and Yahweh Himself to the degree and gravity of the sin committed, such as repaying someone seven times for something stolen, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. And incidentally, on a side note, that scripture does not mean repay someone evil for evil. It means that if you are the perpetrator and you have taken something from someone, you are to give back equal value. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

*\*\*\*Note: Lastly, we are going to confess for the sins of our forefathers, of the most vile sins that have crept into our generations, into us and our children. So as we finish this last set of prayers, I encourage you to repent not just for your own sin of past or present in any of these categories, but denounce, rebuke, and cut off the generational curses of our forefathers for engaging in the activities that follow.*

***Repentance for our sins and those of our forefathers and previous generations:***

***In the category of idolatry:*** Eastern religions, meditation of chanting, mantras, cults, secret orders and lodges, material things, money, power, and people. The occult, astrology, fortune-telling, Ouija boards, seances, Dungeons and Dragons or similar games, board or computer, hypnosis, self-hypnosis, ESP, crystals, psychic healing or occult literature, occult beliefs, spiritism, parapsychology, psychic beliefs and practices, channeling or mind control. In the category of witchcraft and satanism: incantations, spells, dedications, rituals, ritual abuse, blasphemy, mockery. All of these our forefathers have done. Witchcraft beliefs, sacrifices, perversions, magic, centuria, voodoo, wicca, healing witchcraft, and druidism. In the category of sexual sins: fornication, adultery, pornography, rape, incest, lust, masturbation, homosexuality, abortion, bestiality, pedophilia, exhibitionism, abuse, fantasy, and all other perversions.

***And in the category of drugs and addictions:*** forgive us Father, for all of the illegal drugs, alcohol abuse, smoking, the abuse of the body, prescription drug dependency, and food dependency.

***In the category of believing Satan's lies, regarding our self-image:*** The image that you were created in is the image of the Creator. Father, forgive us for not liking the image that you have put, that you've given us. The lies regarding God, regarding religious beliefs, regarding people, the lives that we have lived regarding our behavior, and the lives that we believed regarding world standards and philosophies, religious or otherwise.

***In the category of fear:*** forgive us Father for our fear of failure, our fear of success, our fear of rejection, anxiety, worry, despair, hopelessness, and every other fear.

***Forgive us Father in the category of unbelief or lack of trust:*** double-mindedness, doubts, and skepticism.

***In the category of deceit and dishonesty:*** forgive us for lying, stealing, exaggeration, and gossip.

***In the category of pride:*** forgive us for self-righteousness, thinking higher of ourselves than we are, self-focused, our vanity, and our arrogance.

***In the category of rebellion:*** forgive us for disobedience, disrespect, self-will, our desire to be in control, and our stubbornness.

***In the category of anger:*** forgive us Father for our hatred, our bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, rage, revenge, our slander and gossip, our critical and judgmental spirit, our blame-shifting, our prejudice, our bigotry, and our malice.

***In the category of wishing for death:*** forgive us for ourselves and for the wishing of death on others.

***In the category of violent acts:*** forgive us for attempted suicide, abuse, and murder.

***In the category of vulgar and abusive language:*** forgive us for cursing, for our sarcasm, our condemning, and our off-color stories and jokes.

***And lastly, in the category of music, regarding content of message or the performer's lifestyle:*** forgive us for listening to music that deals in the occult or that may be satanic, sexual in nature, rebellious, drug-oriented, or music that focuses on anything other than life.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Father, for all these things, for every sin that was mentioned and every sin that has not been mentioned, we ask for forgiveness. May You, the God of Heaven, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, forgive us, pardon us, and atone for us. We humbly thank you for sending your Son to die so that we might be set free of all the bondage and the yoke that so easily besets us and slows us down from winning the race that we are running. As we continue to take a time of personal reflection, Abba, we ask that you minister to us and prick our hearts for the things left unaddressed that we need to repent from.

Father, we thank you for your forgiveness. We thank you, Father, that you are a King that loves to forgive! There is no mountain too high, no valley too low, no road too long or no desert too dry, not a rock or an abyss where you cannot be found. The only road block is that WE must seek to find you—In every stage and in every category of our life. Father, we want to say thank you for the forgiveness given to us by the atonement of your Son's sacrificial blood. Thank you for sending Him for our salvation!

***Father, for all of our sins, past, present, and future, please forgive us. Amen!***