

Title: The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in Heaven

Passage: Matthew 6:15-13

Introduction:

“Our fellowship with God finds its principal expression in our praying”

- it is in our praying we indicate we have a relationship with God
- In a relationship, we communicate, which is done through prayer with God.

“What a man is alone with God on his knees is what a man is - nothing more, nothing less.”

Passage: Matthew 6:9-13

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [And Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

Question: What is God like?

- “What comes to our minds when we think about God is *the* most important thing about us.” (A.W. Tower)
- Indicates our spiritual future and destiny
- While your thoughts about God do not impact God, it deeply affects you in what you do and how you live.

“Father”

- Name of God: Father
- while God has many (Elohim, YHWH, etc.), “Father” is revealed.
- Name is used over 200 times in the Gospels. (Over 60 times by Jesus)

Abba

- Father = “Abba” = term of intimacy as used by children in relation to their human fathers.
- Previously in Old Testament, “Father” was used rarely and not in prayer.

Psalms 68:5

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

- Yet Jesus used “Father” repeatedly in His prayers, modeling how we may also approach God in some endeared term and closeness.

Truth as God's child

Galatians 3:26

for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Romans 8:14-16

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- Through the Gospel, God invites you as His son/daughter as one of His own children.

Adoption as His child

- we were previously alien and lost in our sin.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- Truth: God has adopted us as His child through Christ
- Why/How? "To the praise of His glorious grace"
 - grace = unmerited/undeserved favor

Quote: "Daddy, thank you for making me your daughter"

- Have we been thankful to God our Father for our adoption into His family?

Distinction: God our Father vs. earthly father

- God's love and affection is perfect and entirely different from whatever you may have experienced from your human, biological father.

God our Father - Perfect

- perfect in His wisdom, righteousness, love, compassion for you.

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

God our Father - Providing

- Jehovah - Jireh (The LORD provides)

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

God our Father - Powerful

Luke 1:37

For nothing will be impossible with God.”

God our Father - Protecting

Psalms 91:4

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

God our Father - Compassionate

Psalms 139

- God knows everything about us yet cares for us deeply.

Psalms 103:13

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

God our Father - Pardoning

Psalms 103:12

as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

God our Father - Patient

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

God our Father - Present

John 14:23

Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and *make our home with him*.

“In heaven”

- Refers to His transcendence, power, wonder, and holiness

Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

- We can come before Him only through Christ

“Our”

- Term: plural
- Recognition that you belong to a *family* of faith.
- We do not come in prayer where it is all about me
- But rather we come before God about others, the body of Christ.
 - God is pleased when you also pay attention to others, other's needs, and the world.
- when we are saved, we are saved not only in a relationship with God but also saved into a family (the body of believers)

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Other Resources Shared

The Gospel Coalition - West Coast conference

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference/west18/>