

Jesus' Model Prayer – Part 2

The Opening Address

Matthew 6:9b

I. God is Our *Father*

The *ESV Study Bible* notes correctly observe that:

Father (Gk. *patēr*, “father”) would have been “Abba” in Aramaic, the everyday language spoken by Jesus (cf. Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). It was the word used by Jewish children for their earthly fathers. However, since the term in both Aramaic and Greek was also used by adults to address their fathers, the claim that “Abba” meant “Daddy” is misleading and runs the risk of irreverence. (BibleWorks)

Mark 14:32-36

Romans 8:14-16

Galatians 4:5-7

John Chrysostom was correct when he wrote of this address by our Lord Jesus:

See how He straightway stirred up the hearer, and reminded him of all God’s bounty in the beginning. For he who calls God Father, by him both remission of sins, and taking away of punishment, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, and adoption, and inheritance, and brotherhood with the Only-Begotten, and the supply of the Spirit, are acknowledged in this single title. For one cannot call God Father, without having attained to all those blessings. (*Homilies on the Gospel of Saint Matthew*, Vol. 10, p. 134, Logos).

1 John 3:1a

1 John 4:19

See also John 17:11 on Jesus' reference to God in prayer as “Holy Father.”

II. God is *Our* Father

Galatians 3:26-28

Revelation 5:9-10

III. God is our Father *in Heaven*

First, we are reminded that God is *transcendent*.

Second, when we address God as our Father *in heaven*, we are reminded that heaven is our real home.

Philippians 3:20