

Our Father in Heaven

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Text: Matthew 6:9-13

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Introduction: Open your Bible this evening to **Matthew 6:9-13**. What a joy it is to call God “our Father”. Many do not know how to pray. Prayer begins by entering into relationship with God.

But even though we may know God personally, we often don’t know how or what to pray. I want to help you to pray tonight.

Let us come to what is called “the Lord’s prayer” in **Matthew 6:9** and find some answers.

Matthew 6:9-13, “Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

“11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

What a beautiful picture of God we have. A father! How is God our Father?

God is our Father through Birth and Adoption

He welcomes all His children into His presence because He wants to bless us.

The words, “Our Father” points us to the ***new birth***. We are God’s children because of ***the new birth***. He has birthed us anew into His likeness. It also speaks of ***adoption***. We are adopted into God’s family. That means that you have every right and privilege of a son. Thomas Boston said, “Prayer is the fruit of our adoption”.

So when Jesus tells us to pray to our “Dear heavenly Father”, He is telling us that God welcomes His children to come to Him and lay their desires and needs and heartaches and thanksgivings upon His shoulder.

And He welcomes us into His presence because He wants to bless us.

I. **God is our Father.** “Our Father in heaven” (vs.9).

This speaks of ***relationship***. God **wants** to answer us. He is our Father. We should always be ***at home*** in His presence.

OT Times

In the time of Jesus, praying to God as our Father, was a radical idea. In the entire Old Testament, God is called Father only seven times. But in this chapter alone, Jesus called God Father more than ten times. In fact in the four Gospels, Jesus tells us that God is our Father over 70 times.

God is a Person

God is not a force or a power, but He is a person, and that means I can relate to Him. I can get to know a person; I can have a relationship with a person.

Problem with the Concept of Father

The problem is that for many people the word “father” brings up some very bad thoughts. It’s a bad experience. Maybe your father abandoned you. Perhaps when you hear father, you feel regret, anger, fear, frustration or even guilt. None of us have a perfect picture of our earthly fathers because our fathers are not and were not perfect.

Perhaps you heard often: “You just wait until your father gets home, then you’ll really get it!” Some fathers are simply selfish and demanding and cruel to their kids. Some are very neglectful. Some of us had fathers that were anything but welcoming to us.

Statistics tell us that many fathers are cruel, even physically or mentally abusive. Perhaps even your father was this way. But in that sense God does not resemble our fathers. All our fathers were imperfect. Our Father in heaven is a **PERFECT Father!!**

God's welcoming love

God loves you so much that He gave His own Son for you. He wants to meet with you tonight and each moment. He is overjoyed to meet with you. He’s available and accessible to us. We are totally welcomed by Him. We are “accepted in the Beloved” (**Eph. 1:6**). You may be feeling low today. That’s ok. God already knows. He has XRay eyes that look down deep into your heart and thoughts. At times when you are hurting and you don’t understand why, let God check you out.

Longest Gap

The longest gap I’ve had away from my children was 21 days. It was 2005, and I had just been called to pastor Tabernacle and needed to get all our belongings from Spain. We had those phone calls. I told my wife and kids, “I love you”. You’ve had those conversations. “I love you” “I love you more”. But phone conversations are just not enough. By the end of my trip I couldn’t wait to hug my wife and hold my children. When I saw them I just wanted to hold on to them and never let them go.

That’s how God’s love pours out to us. He is our Father in heaven. He welcomes us. His heart delights in His children!

How Can I Have God as Father?

Perhaps you're here tonight, and you are asking, "How can I get God as my Father?" He's made it so easy to understand that no one can accuse God of only letting really smart people come to Him. **Galatians 3:26** (ESV) "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." Jesus said in order to have God as your Father, you have to come through Him. Believe on Jesus as Savior and Lord and God will be your Father.

He wants to answer us. He is our Father.
He is also capable of answering us. He is in Heaven.

II. **God is in heaven.** "Our Father in heaven". He is *infinitely capable* of answering us (Psa. 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35).

- Psalm 115:3, "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."
- King Nebuchadnezzar got it right in **Daniel 4:34-35**, "his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"
- That's our Father "in heaven"!

God is "in heaven". He is able to help us. The same God of sovereign power and dominion that has no problem directing the planets is your FATHER. Sometimes our life is in knots.

Illustration: My children will come to me from time to time with doozers of knots in their shoes. I can't often help them. How many of you have gotten so desperate in that situation that you try to pull the knot free with your teeth!? Sometimes we get those knots in our lives and we have no solutions! But it's not that way with God. "With God all things are possible"!

Illustration: We can understand this even on an earthly level. We look at those who are heirs to great fortunes. They usually have the best education. They want for nothing. When we meet someone who's father is famous, we are intrigued. We know they might have certain connections and privileges that others might not have. We are already heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

God is the One who can meet ALL of our needs, if we let Him.

Illustration: One of my brothers lives in California and he loves just to cruise around on the river in Sacramento and enjoy God's creation. If my brother came to me and told me his boat engine blew a gasket and asked me to fix his boat, I couldn't help him. I'm not capable. I'm not a boat mechanic.

It's the same way with God. We often try to fix things in our lives we are not qualified to fix. We need to go to God. He's completely capable.

We are so weak, and we have very few solutions, but in God and in His Word are all the solutions for ***life and godliness***.

III. **God's Name is to be hallowed.** “Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name**”. This speaks of our attitude toward God (Ecc. 5:1-2; Eph. 1:6; Heb. 4:16).

Ecc. 5:1-2, “Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. 2 Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.”

This speaks of how we want God to answer. We want God to be glorified. We want His name to be set apart as holy.

Definition of Hallow

To hallow something is to set it apart as special and precious.

- People don't play baseball with ***the hope diamond***. It's something that is to be treasured.
- We don't buy the ***Mona Lisa*** painting and put it under the car to catch the oil. We would never do that. It's special. It's to be admired.

The Motive of all our Prayers

God's name is to be treasured and admired. The motive of all our prayers ought to be God's glory. ***We are asking God to answer us in a way that most glorifies Him and allows the most amount of people to know His beauty and His glory.***

We are not praying that God would make His name holy, because it already is.

God's Name Hallowed in Our Lives

“Hallowed by your name” is praying that God would be our highest treasure. That He would get glory from our lives.

Our ultimate desire in all things is that God gets glory! That more and more people worship God as a result of our prayers and our life. Hallowed be the name of our Father. May His name be set apart as a treasure. May He be admired in all that we do and say.

God's Name Hallowed in the World

“Hallowed be your name” is also a prayer for God’s name to be highly esteemed in the church and in the world. There is coming a day when all will esteem God’s name. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess the goodness of God and His great esteem. But that hasn’t happened yet.

Conclusion:

So God is our Father, He **wants** to answer us.

God is in heaven, He is **capable** to answer us.

God’s name is to be hallowed, the motive of our petitions is God’s **glory**.

When we have this perspective then we can pray...

Verse 10, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Then we can pray for our **daily bread** “manna”.

Then we can receive God’s **forgiveness**.

Then we can expect **His deliverance from sin**.

But first and foremost we pray that “God’s name be hallowed” and that God would be glorified by the answers He gives to all our prayers.

We need to expect an answer if we pray this way.

What do we need to pray for tonight?

1. God to renew our hearts in fatherly love
2. The Father’s Wisdom
3. The Father’s Guidance
4. The salvation of lost souls
5. That we would grow in grace
6. That we would be humble realizing where we came from.
7. That we have the power to obey all that the Lord asks of us.

How should we pray?

- Because God is our Father, we should realize, we are “accepted in the Beloved” (**Eph. 1:6**).
- **Hebrews 4:16** , “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”