

Matthew 6:9: Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Intro: Last Week: Don’t pray like the hypocrites in order to be seen by others but pray because you know God as Father, you delight in His presence, and He will reward you.

Don’t pray with a bunch of empty words like pagans to try to manipulate God with your words. Father knows!

So how should we pray? Jesus tells us how to pray in the Lord’s Prayer or Disciple’s Prayer. This is amazing! We get to hear from the greatest Man Who has ever lived! We get to hear from the greatest Man of prayer Who has ever prayed – how to pray! We get to hear from God Himself how to pray!

Didache: Earliest Christian document we have (other than the Bible). Pray the Lord’s Prayer 3 times a day.

Martin Luther: So, a good and attentive barber keeps his thoughts, attention, and eyes on the razor and hair and does not forget how far he has gotten with his shaving or cutting. If he wants to engage in too much conversation or let his mind wander or look somewhere else he is likely to cut his customer's mouth, nose, or even his throat. Thus if anything is to be done well, it requires the full attention of all one's senses and members, as the proverb says, -"He who thinks of many things, thinks of nothing and does nothing right." How much more does prayer call for concentration and singleness of heart if it is to be a good prayer! This in short is the way I use the Lord's Prayer when I pray it. To this day I suckle at the Lord's Prayer like a child, and as an old man, eat and drink from it and never get my fill. It is the very best prayer, even better than the Psalter, which is so very dear to me. It is surely evident that a real master composed and taught it. What a great pity that the prayer of such a master is prattled and chattered so irreverently all over the world! How many pray the Lord's Prayer several thousand times in the course of a year, and if they were to keep on doing so for a thousand years they would not have tasted nor prayed one iota, one dot, of it! In a word, the Lord's Prayer is the greatest martyr on earth (as are the name and word of God). Everybody tortures and abuses it; few take comfort and joy in its proper use.

This is not the only prayer we can pray. We see many other prayers in the Bible that don’t use these same exact words. But this is a model prayer that should instruct, guide, and shape all of our prayers.

Pray the like this

Luke 11:1-2: Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say [imperative]

1. The Content And Structure Of The Prayer

The prayer is a series of 6 requests. In them we are asking God to do something! God is the focus!

Kevin DeYoung: The first set of three requests focus on God’s glory: His name; His Kingdom; His will. The second set of three requests focus on our good: our provision, our forgiveness, our protection. Of course the two sets cannot be separated. God is glorified as He gives us what we need. And when we ask for what we need, we always do it with an eye to God receiving glory.

“For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.”

2. Our Father Is Not Everyone’s Father

- **Acts 17:28-29:** “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

- **John 1:12-13** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

3. Our Father Not Our Mother

It is true that the Bible uses analogies to help us understand some of God's attributes as mother-like:

Isaiah 66:13: As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Matthew 23:37: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

Kevin DeYoung: God is Spirit. He doesn't have a body; He doesn't have a gender – He is not male or female. But consistently and exclusively throughout Scripture He reveals Himself with masculine pronouns and names: King, not Queen; Husband, not Wife; and Father, not Mother. Naming someone in the Bible is an act of authority over the person you are naming (God named Adam; Adam named Eve). We cannot take that authority and rename God!

This does not, in any way, mean there is a kind of superiority of men over women or fathers over mothers! But it simply means that God has chosen to reveal Himself as Father and other masculine names and titles.

4. Our Father In The Old Testament

a. God the Father gives His children life: Deuteronomy 32:6: Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?

b. God the Father loves, protects, provides, saves, redeems, and rescues His children: Hosea 11:1: When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Isaiah 63:16: For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

c. God the Father guides His children in the right way: Jeremiah 31:9: With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

d. God the Father shapes His children into His image: Isaiah 64:8: But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

e. God the Father will always be the Father of His children: 1 Chronicles 29:10: David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever."

f. God the Father expects honor and obedience from His children: Malachi 1:6: A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor?

Deuteronomy 14:1: You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead.

5. Our Father In The New Testament

Robert H. Stein: Yet, with the coming of Jesus Christ, the Fatherhood of God is emphasized to a much greater degree than in the Old Testament: "A third unique feature of Jesus' teaching concerning the Fatherhood of God is that the frequency of this metaphor is out of all proportion to what we find elsewhere in the Old Testament and other Jewish literature. (165 times in 4 Gospels; 245 total; compared to only 15 times in the entire Old Testament!)"

J. I. Packer: Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification . . . To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.

Kevin DeYoung: Jesus wants us to call the God of the universe; the God Who made the world out of nothing; the God Who calls all of the trillions of stars out by name; the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God of the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea; the God of the glory cloud filling the tabernacle; the God who shakes the cedars of Lebanon; the God Who showed Himself to Daniel as the Ancient of Days; the God before Whom no one can stand face to face and live! Jesus wants us to call this God, Father!

- **Ephesians 1:4-5:** he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy & blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

- **Galatians 4:4-5:** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- **Romans 8:14-17:** 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, & if children, then heirs - heirs of God & fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him

Bruce: In the Roman world of the first century an adopted son was a son deliberately chosen by his adoptive father to perpetuate his name & inherit his estate; he was no whit inferior in status to a son born in the ordinary course of nature, & might well enjoy the father's affection more fully & reproduce the father's character more worthily.

1 John 3:1: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God **GOSPEL!**

6. What Are Some Of The Benefits Of Being Adopted By God The Father?

a. We get to cry Abba! Father!: **Piper:** the reason Paul uses the word "cry" and the Aramaic word "Abba" is because both of them point to deep, affectionate, personal, authentic experience of God's fatherly love. He didn't say that the testimony of the Spirit was that we affirm doctrinally that God is father. The devil knows that doctrine. Doctrinal affirmations, as important as they are, don't make children. What he said was that the testimony of the Spirit that we are God's children is that from our hearts there rises an irrepressible cry – a cry, not a mere statement, a cry: "Abba! Father!"

b. God is our Father

c. We get a huge inheritance

d. We are forgiven and righteous

e. We are reconciled to God – no condemnation – God is for us: Think of the best earthly father who has ever lived? God is an infinitely better Father!

f. God will take care of us – protect us – fight for us

g. We have a relationship with God: We can talk to Him and cry to Him (Have you talked of Father about this?)

h. You have come to know God and are known by God

Do you have a hard time relating to God as Father because of bad experiences with an evil, earthly father?

This may help: you have had the most evil, wicked father in the world! A murderer, a liar, abusive, threatening, accusing! Remember that we were all born with the devil as our father. No father is worse than that father.

1 John 3:8, 10: Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil . . . By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

But God! Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and by faith alone in Christ alone, you have a new, perfectly faithful, most loving, most kind, most compassionate, all wise, all powerful, all good, heavenly Father! God is your Father! And you are His child! He will show you what a real father is like! Rest in Him!

6. Our Father In Heaven

a. Our: Christianity is a communal, corporate, community calling! We are in this together! Not “I” and “me,” but “our” and “we” and “us!”

Matthew 6:9-13: **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.

b. In Heaven: God is both immanent (near us, in an intimate relationship with us His people) and transcendent (high and lifted up; exalted; other worldly; majestic; separate from us and holy, holy, holy!).

Deuteronomy 33:26: There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty.

Psalms 115:3: Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Ecclesiastes 5:2: 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.

Isaiah 64:1: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down

Every time Jesus addressed God He used the name, Father. Except for once: Matthew 27:46: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus Taught Us How To Pray
Both What To Think And What To Say
With Hearts For God His Praise Convey
Our Father's Glory On Display
We're Born The Devil's Children Stray
So Jesus Came To Be The Way
He Died And Rose To Evil Slay
So Now By Faith We're Father's Clay
Adopted, Molded To Display
Our Father's Glory Wide Array
We're Loved As Children And Obey
Our Father's Love Won't Go Away
With Him Forever We Shall Stay!