

# When You Pray - To A Holy God - 1-28-18

When You Pray.....I mentioned last week that Christians have too many rules for prayer. It's just talking to God. There are times where praying a certain way may be more powerful but ultimately we need to have the basis that prayer is just talking to Jesus.

But there are mindsets that need to be developed as you pray regularly. There are things you should know about prayer because they help you pray. When you pray, you want to hear a response from heaven, but you need the right motives, so you need the right mindsets.

This is where the Lord's Prayer comes in. More than a prayer for us to recite, it's a list of beliefs we should have in prayer:

## **Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)**

In this manner, therefore, pray:

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 forgive our debtors.  
13 And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Jesus says to pray LIKE this. The Lord's Prayer is to be a model, meaning a standard or example for imitation. This is why it's important to dig into the Lord's Prayer. It should be the standard that we model our prayers after.

This doesn't mean you have to pray this prayer. It doesn't mean to reword it with a bunch of synonyms and pray it. The intent here is that you understand what Jesus is saying, the heart and mindset He wants you to have when you pray.

You can repeat this prayer word for word every night of your life and never actually pray!

The disciples said "*Lord, teach us to pray*"

Jesus said "*When you pray, pray like this*"

**Matthew 6:9 (NKJV)**

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

When you pray it's so important to know who you are praying to. If you are a Christian you are praying to God, Yahweh, Jehovah, Jesus! But it goes beyond saying a name. We should have in mind who is this God we are praying to.

*"Our Father in heaven. "*

This shows the intimacy of prayer. It's not a salvation prayer, someone who has never prayed or rather, never been born again, doesn't pray "*Father*", they might just say "God".

Father is a name of endearment. It expresses worship and adoration for your Father....meaning you are His child. While God CREATED everyone, not everyone is His CHILD.

**John 1:12 (NKJV)**

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

IF you have received Jesus, if you have been born again by giving your life to Jesus and He is your Lord, then He is your Savior and you have become a child of God.

**Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV)**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

See a son or daughter is brought near, is pulled in close and secured tightly.

**Galatians 4:6 (NKJV)**

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Abba, Father. Only a child of God would cry Abba Father, Dearest Father, Daddy....

We must know that when we pray, when we come before the Lord and pour out our heart, good or bad, we are talking to our Father. He's not some far off God, not if you belong to Jesus. He's near.

So when you receive Jesus as Savior you can boldly, confidently pray "*Our Father...*". You know when you pray "*Our Father*" you aren't saying "Our" like mine and yours (although that's true).

When you say “*Our Father*” you are saying mine and Jesus’ Father. Because Jesus is the link to the Father, it’s through Him you have access AND relationship. He paid membership dues. He punches your frequent visitor card. Jesus is the gate to the Father. Jesus is how you become a part of God’s FAMILY !

Not only are you in the family, but you are forever in the family (you can’t be kicked out of the family) because you are sealed, Paul explaining that...

**Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV)**

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Listen....God is not an abandoner. He doesn’t leave us. He states in the OT to Joshua then it’s repeated in the NT in Hebrews and Jesus Himself said He will be with us always.

In John 14 Jesus told the disciples that the Father would send a Helper, the Holy Spirit because He would be leaving for heaven. But He says “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.” This refers to Him coming in the Person of the Holy Spirit. (it’s another reinforcement of the trinity)

God will not walk out on you. You may walk out on Him, but He won’t be the one to leave.

So know that when you pray, He is there. Know that He does want to hear what you have to say. Know that He’s not rolling His eyes waiting for you to stop talking, God is patient, He has time, He can out wait you. He’s never annoyed because you are praying again.

It’s really the opposite....He’s waiting to hear from you. He wants to hear from you. If that wasn’t true, we wouldn’t be told so many times in the bible to pray! God is not like us!

**Isaiah 46:8-10 (NKJV)**

“Remember this, and show yourselves men;  
Recall to mind, O you transgressors.  
9 Remember the former things of old,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like Me,  
10 Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,  
Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure,’

There is no one like our God. NO ONE.

Our Father in heaven...."Our Father" speaks of His nearness but "in heaven" reminds us of His transcendence meaning He is supreme, He is beyond ordinary, He is supernatural!

Do you understand the gravity of this? When a follower of Jesus prays, the God he talks to is supreme, beyond ordinary, and supernatural....and.....HE....IS.....NEAR!

If you only get one thing today.....get this! It's a motivation to pray. Whatever you are facing, whatever a loved one is facing, the supreme, beyond ordinary, supernatural God is near! Doesn't that make the issue seem much less scary? Doesn't that make it look beatable?

When a child is being picked on by a bully, they can feel outmatched, hopeless, powerless. They would do anything to avoid that encounter. Their dad may tell them how to defend themselves, they might feel confident until the bully shows up again. Then the feelings return.

But what if that child looks to the right and sees their dad? How would they feel when they realize he is with them? All of the sudden they are confident, powerful, secure. While they will still have to defend themselves, they know dad is here in case things get out of hand.

You have a bully....satan...and he may be in a variety of forms. But know that it's a spiritual battle, you need spiritual weapons and methods.

God wants you to learn to defend yourself. We have the whole armor of God in Ephesians 6 where we learn the weapons of spiritual warfare. He wants us to be confident and powerful in battle. But in case we get scared, He's with us. In case things get out of hand, He's with us. The supreme, beyond ordinary, supernatural God is near!

"Our Father in heaven" - we are His children, He is near, He is supreme, beyond ordinary, supernatural!

"Hallowed be Your name." Hallowed is the Greek word *hagiozo* (ha-gee-ah-zo). It's a verb meaning to acknowledge as holy, to separate from profane things. YOU make it holy. Obviously you can't make God holy, He just is. But you make Him holy in your life. We're going back to mindset...beliefs....you have to believe that God is different, separate from other things.

Let God's name be given a position that is absolutely unique. This is not just talking about the name that we call Him (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Lord, Yahweh, Jehovah, etc). It includes the nature, character, personality of the person in so far as it is known or revealed to us!

It's not that you trust God because His name is God, but that you trust God because you know what God is like....different....separate from all other things....

1. When we make God's name holy it's more than remembering the commandment to not use God's name in vain. Now we certainly should avoid using the names of God, Jesus in profane ways. I preached an entire message on that in the Big 10 series. We should speak those names with great reverence. They are not common. They are special names. Names of GOD. There is power in the name of Jesus! Amen?

But I'll tell you, this is maybe the least demanding aspect of making his name holy. You can stop saying GD, OMG and JC and then you just aren't trashing His name but you still may not be making it HOLY!

In making His name holy, you acknowledge it is uncommon, not like all others....

2. Earlier we sang songs. Some were just singing, some were worshipping. We honor His name in both public and private worship. I've said it before but I'll say it again....worship is my favorite part of a church service and one of the most important aspects of my life!

In worship is God's name truly being lifted up? Do the songs lift up the name of Jesus? Do the words from your mouth lift Him up? We make His name holy when we worship....not when we sing, but when we worship!

3. We make His name holy when our beliefs about Him are worthy of Him. This goes back to our understanding of God, not just mentally but spiritual understanding.

It goes back to "*Our Father in heaven*". First do you even know Jesus? Are you reborn spiritually as a child of God, reconciled with the Father? Do you KNOW Him? Because if you only know His name but not Who He is, then how can your beliefs about Him be accurate and true?

The deeper our spiritual understanding the deeper our reverence and the "more holy" God is to us. This is all the work of the Holy Spirit but it requires US seeking to know Him more....that is how we know the depth and meaning of being able to say Abba Father....Dearest Father....when we pray.

4. We make holy the name of the Lord when we live a life that displays that God is our Father and Jesus is our Lord.

*Martin Luther asked: "How is God's name hallowed among us?"*

*Answer: "When our life and doctrine are truly Christian"*

When we pray, "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name*" we are dedicating ourselves to lead lives that exalt all that He is.....that our very life would declare His name is Holy!

**Psalm 111:9 (NKJV)**

He has sent redemption to His people;  
He has commanded His covenant forever:  
Holy and awesome is His name.

When You Pray.....meditate on Who God is. You don't have to speak the exact words "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name*" but declare that:

- You are His child
- He is near
- He is supreme, beyond ordinary, and supernatural
- His name as though it is something special, important
- You Worship Him
- You need the Holy Spirit to reveal more of who He is to you
- You need Him be revealed as heavenly Father, not as an earthly one
- You will live your life for Him
- You need Him to help you where you fall short