

Meeting with God - "Our Father"

January 11, 2018

Matthew 6:9-13 NASB

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is 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 do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

Matthew 6:9 NASB

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven...'"

1. ***Christians pray because children long to be in the presence of their Father and commune with Him. Inside of the child of God there is a spiritual primal instinct to return to the Source and Author of their life and spirit. That instinct is prayer. Without that relational connection they are not alive, they are not whole, they are not well, but sickly, depressed and spiritually anemic.***

Galatians 4:6-7 ESV

6 And **because you are sons**, God has **sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts**, crying, "**Abba! Father!**"

7 So **you are no longer a slave, but a son**, and if a son, then an heir through God.

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." — Martin Luther

"If any of you should ask me for an epitome of the Christian religion, I should say that it is in one word - prayer. Live and die without prayer, and you will pray long enough when you get to hell." — Charles Spurgeon

"The continuous and unembarrassed interchange of love and thought between God and the soul of the redeemed man is the throbbing heart of New Testament religion...This intercourse between God and the soul is known to us in conscious personal awareness...It is conscious: it does not stay below the threshold of consciousness and work there unknown to the soul...but comes within the field of awareness where the man can know it as he knows any other fact of experience."
—A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, "The Glorious Pursuit"

2. ***Our access into God's presence is secured for all eternity by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We never approach God on the basis of our performance, worth or works, but solely by faith alone in the finished work of Christ in His death and His resurrection.***

We may feel at times as though we need to perform some spiritual ritual or acquire a certain mental or spiritual state or demeanor before we can pray, but not so for the child of God. Jesus has already provided and prepared full access to our Father's heart and presence. All we need is a honest and humble heart.

"We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts."

— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Hebrews 10:19-22 ESV

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

3. *We have the confident assurance that every time we go to God in prayer, we will be met by our heavenly Father who loves us deeply, who cares for every detail of our life every day and will respond to every need with compassion and sympathy.*

Psalms 103:13-14 ESV

13 As a father shows compassion (*racham* - to love deeply, tender affection, have mercy) to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear (*yare'* - to stand in awe, honor, respect, revere, fear, dread) him.
14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

4. *We have confident assurance that every time we go to God in prayer, we are met by our High Priest who suffered in every way that we do. Therefore He knows by experience and is moved with sympathy to meet our needs. Additionally, our High Priest continually intercedes for us.*

Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize (*sympatheō* - to be affected with the same feeling as another, to have compassion, to commiserate) with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:25 ESV

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

5. *We have confident assurance that every time we go to God in prayer, the Holy Spirit is within us to pray through us the perfect will of God, since we don't know how to pray as we should.*

Romans 8:26-27 ESV

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

When you meet with God in prayer:

- *The heavenly Father welcomes you with compassions and mercies which are new every morning.*
- *Jesus strives with you in intercession, understanding your pain and suffering by His personal experience. Your prayers are mingled with His prayers before God.*
- *The Holy Spirit is present to help you and pray through you perfect prayers according to God's sovereign plan.*