

"OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN"

Matthew 6:9

Introduction: Jesus encourages us to pray, also He will teach us HOW to pray. He has given us a model to pattern our prayers after. His example is not such that we must pray EXACTLY like His prayer, but to be a stimulant, or something to think about as we offer our prayers.

The first thing Jesus would have us understand is that God who created all is also the Father of those who believe in Jesus, therefore opening up a whole new approach to God.

I. FATHER

1. Jesus came to reveal God to mankind. Man had his own ideas about God. As the Potter with as the Creator and His creation, as the King and His subjects, as the Judge over violators of His law.
2. Jesus addressed God as "Father" and got into a lot of trouble for it. He tells us in His model prayer that we are to call God, "Father" like He did.
3. Not all people are Children of God (John 8:44), but those who have been born again are. Jesus teaches that if born into the Family of God, that person has the right to be the child and to call God, "Father."
4. Think of the difference between praying to the Creator, and then to the Father. The believer's prayers are to be addressed to the "Father."
5. A pastor was visiting the children's department one Sunday and he was introduced by the teacher as "Pastor" but one of the children said, "this is my daddy!." There was a lot of difference to the little boy between the "Pastor" and his daddy, so it is with God and Father.

II. OUR FATHER

1. Jesus says to use "Our Father" implying a family term. More than one are the Children of God the Father.
2. We are not to pray as spoiled children, selfish and uncaring for others. We are to remember that we are members of ONE Family. Our Father will not grant our prayers if we are seeking/ asking from a Selfish standpoint, or if our prayers will bring harm or wrong to a brother or sister.
3. By using "Our Father" we recognize the Family. To pray effectively, we must do as a member of the Family of God, nor can we expect God to give us any special benefit He would not give to another of the Family.

III. OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

1. Our heavenly Father is sovereign, supreme, majestic and holy. His is the highly exalted throne in Heaven. Perfect in knowledge, past, present and future. He knows all about each of His children. He sees us from our beginning to our end.
2. Our Father's only purpose for us is to our good. He loves us beyond all degree and we can trust Him totally and should come to Him regularly, for grace, mercy and in times of need.

CONCLUSION:

1. Once there was a ship being tossed so badly by a storm that everyone was frightened except for one little boy of about 12. When asked why he was not afraid, too, he replied that "my daddy is the captain and I know that he won't allow anything bad to happen to us."
2. A hymn describes God, the Father like this:
"My Father is rich in houses and lands, He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands! Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full, He has riches untold....I'm a child of the King, a child of the King, with Jesus my Savior, I'm a child of the King."

"My Father's own Son, the Savior of men, once wandered on earth as the poorest of them; but now He is pleading our pardon on high, that we may be His when He comes by and by. I once was an outcast stranger on earth, a sinner by choice, an alien by birth, but I've been adopted, my name's written down, An heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown....."