

Our Father Who art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name... Luke 11:1~4, part 2

I feel as we begin this morning, it's important to start by reiterating the truth we looked at last week, being that Jesus gave this, for a *model* or a *pattern* for us to follow, more than a prayer to be prayed... By that, what I mean is, the intent here is not that this is to be "A prayer," that we are to *recite* word for word, as many have taken it to be. You could do that, and it would be a prayer, but to do that would be to miss the whole point. This is not "**What** we are to pray," but rather, this is "**How** we are to pray"...in terms of the manner in which we pray. This serves as a pattern, as a framework, as a skeleton in which we put the flesh on. This will become more and more evident, as we begin to look at each part of this...

This morning, we will begin by looking at the first two, of the seven individual components, that make up this model... These two, deal with the way we are to "**Approach God in prayer...**"

(Vs 2) ²When ye pray, say, *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...*

The purpose of these first two, is to create in us a "Right Approach" to God... The intent is to create in us a right spirit or attitude, as we come into His presence...

Originally, I had intended to look at each component separately...but the more I studied this, I came to realize, that these two would be better understood combined. Even though they are independent of each other, they are better understood when taken in contrast to one another. It's almost like these two represent, two opposite ends of the spectrum, that when combined, serve to give us a proper "balance."

For example, the term "Father" speaks of *intimacy*, it is a term of *endearment*...speaking of closeness. While "Hallowed" speaks of that which is *holy*, it speaks of "separation," that which is *transcendent*, and above everything else. Understood, these two terms represent the complete opposite ends of the spectrum. One speaks of "Intimacy and closeness," and the other "Separation and distance." One speaks of the "Touchableness of God," and the other the "Untouchableness of God." But this is by design, they are purposely given, so that when you take the two extremes, and combine them together, it brings about the proper *balance*... I can run into His presence, as a child would run to his loving father, while at the same time, doing so in honor and respect and reverence, for who He is...

As we look at these, and I believe the point will become clear... We'll begin with calling Him "Father..."

(Vs 2) ²When ye pray, say, *Our Father which art in heaven...*

Jesus begins his teaching on how to pray, by telling us to come before God, as a son would his father... We are to "See Him as a Father"... This speaks of "Intimacy"...it speaks of the "Closeness" of the relationship. Beloved, God is "Our Father," and we are "His Children"... How amazing is that concept? And it's true, sometimes, it's hard for us to truly grasp the gravity of this fact, but He is our Father!

The word Jesus uses here for "Father" was the Aramaic word for father...*abba, abba*... It is the most intimate term used by children, literally carrying the meaning of *daddy, daddy*...

It's important that we fully understand this concept of seeing God as a Father, because it lies at the heart of Christianity. What separates "Christianity" from every other "Religion," is this idea of a personal, intimate relationship with God! Nowhere is this made clearer, than in Romans 8...

(Vs 15) ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

This laterally translates to “**daddy, daddy**”... Think about the *intimacy* of that, calling on God *as a child would his daddy*. For many, that’s an impossible “*concept*” to grasp, but according to Paul, it is a reality. And not only is it a reality, but according to Paul, this is one of the “*evidences*” that *affirms you as a true child of God*. Look at what he immediately says, following this statement...

16The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Listen, according to the scriptures, one of the “*evidences*” that a man or woman has had a “*genuine salvation experience*,” has to do with “*seeing God as a Father*”... Paul teaches us here, that the evidence of “*rebirth*,” is that of a “*spirit within us*,” that sees God as a Father... What a wonderful explanation this is of the “*Rebirth*” or what it means to “*Be born again*.” Paul explains, that at genuine salvation, there is a “*New Life*” that is placed within us, that is FROM God (Speaking of **Christ in us!**) Notice, he says, “you have received”... The contrast here, is the “*Old life or spirit*” that we use to have, that keeps us in fear all the time, speaking of when we were under the Law. (Many still walk in the spirit of fear...) But for all those who have been *born again*, we have received a “*new spirit*.” (**Christ in us!**) No longer a spirit of “*fear*,” in the sense of being “*afraid*,” but rather, we walk in peace, seeing Him as a loving Father. The difference, being this “*New Spirit*” we have received...

Let us back up for a moment, so that we get the full understanding of what Paul is saying here...

(Romans 8) ¹²*Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Once again, Paul affirms “*Who it is*,” that are “*the Children of God*”...those who are led by the “*Spirit of God*.” Which he contrast with being led by “*our spirit*” which he refers to as the “*flesh*.” It’s important to understand what Paul means here... The “*flesh*” refers to “*our fallen nature*,” that is within every man. It refers to the *sinful nature of man*, that he naturally lives to. The call of the gospel is to “*Repent*,” which means to turn from living to this “*Sinful nature*,” speaking of “*Our will, Our desires*,” and live our lives unto Christ. Here, Paul points out the fact, that given the knowledge of what God has done for us, in the offering up of His Son on the cross, we are “*Indebted to HIM!*” I “*Owe my life to Him!*” Knowing what God has done, God forbid that I continue to “*live my life to my self, to my own will, to my own desires...*” Notice, Paul makes it clear, that to do so, will mean certain death!

¹³*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: **BUT...** if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

In other words, if you make it a lifestyle of “*putting to death*” the desires of your flesh, your will, your ambitions in this life...to seek and to pursue the will and desires of God...you shall live!

¹⁴*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

(Vs 15) ¹⁵*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; **but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.***

God’s children are those who have “**Received**” the “*Spirit of adoption*” as Paul calls it... Referring to a “*spirit within us, that sees God now as a Father...*” Speaking of having a right relationship with God, in that of love and admiration for Him. Just as we love our earthly fathers, and do for them, and love to spend time with them...so it is with those who have been “*Born Again!*” Serving God, living my life for Him, is not a burden or obligation for me...I love my heavenly Father, it’s a joy to live for Him!

16The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

(Ga. 4) In Galatians, Paul reiterates this same truth...⁴*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,* ⁵*To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.* ⁶*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.* ⁷*Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

It speaks of the new way we see God...as a loving, compassionate Father... (*daddy, daddy...*)

Beloved, how blessed are we, to have the Lord God Almighty, the Lord of host, the Lord of Heaven and earth...to be **“Our Father”**? The obvious answer is, blessed above all men! We are to be *“envied”* of all men, that we have God as our Father!

(Illus) Growing up, I had one of the best fathers in all the world... I didn't realize how blessed I was, until I got older, and had children of my own. Growing up, I didn't have a care in the world, my father saw to it, that my every need was met, and many of my desires. His whole life revolved around me. I was *“the apple of his eye,”* and as a result, I was the most fortunate kid in the world.

Beloved, as good as that is, that doesn't even begin to compare to having *“God”* as *“Our Father!”* **Is there anything that He can't do and won't do for the good of His children?** My, how blessed we are, to have a God such as this...praise be unto His name!

In teaching His disciples *“how to pray,”* the first things **Jesus says**...is when you go to the Lord in prayer, do so in the awareness of the fact that He is your FATHER!

Then, having established God as *“a Father,”* Jesus adds another perspective of God we need to keep in mind, as to ensure that we do not overstep our “bounds”... ²*When ye pray, say, **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...***

The term **Hallowed** carries the meaning of *“Something that is Sacred”*... It refers to that which is **“Holy”**. It speaks to the *“Holiness of God.”* The term *“Father”* speaks of intimacy and closeness. While *“Hallowed”* speaks of just the opposite, Holy, separated and distant. This aspect reminds of the fact, that as defiled, depraved, sinners...we have nothing in common! God is HOLY, and we are to approach Him, *mindful of His Holiness.*

T: This element is intended to promote the proper *“Reverence and Respect”* before God... Absolutely, He is as a *“Father”* to us...but at the same time...**HE is GOD!** This is GOD we are talking too! And we must ever be mindful of this, lest we become irreverent and disrespectful before Him.

I hope you can see the *“balancing”* function of these two aspects in the matter of prayer. If we approached Him as a *“Father”* alone, we would very likely presume upon His grace, and take advantage of Him. Whereas, if we approached Him in the sense of *“His Holiness”* alone, we'd be scared to death, and would not be able *to draw near* in any sense of the word. We'd have a constant sense of separation, a sense that He was unreachable. But combined, we get a better understanding of how we can come near and up close to God, as a Father, yet still show Him the honor and respect He so rightly deserves!

But it doesn't end there...as a matter of fact, understood, *“Hallowed be thy name”* becomes the beginning.

T: When properly understood, these two provide for a very important truth, concerning the matter of prayer... We come before Him *as His children*...for the purpose of *seeking to Honor His Name*...

Understood... *“Hallowed by thy name”*... the *“Hallowing”* of His great name, becomes the foundation of all our prayers...

At the heart of prayer, is the *“Setting apart &Glorification”* of His name! **Hallowed be your name.**

Every request, no matter what it is, must be subordinated to this one, be in harmony with this one, or in pursuit of this one. We are not to pray for anything, that does not have the glory and honor of God as the chief end!

T: The purpose of “*Hallowed by thy name*” is to establish the right “*desire*” of the heart when praying...

It’s a warning against self-seeking. It’s a warning against asserting your will and your ambition and your goals and your dreams. Contrary to what you hear so much in our day, God does not exist in heaven to fulfill your every desire, and to fulfill your every wish... He exist in heaven, and has redeemed you and made you His child in order that in you, He might display His will and His kingdom and His glory in this dark, fallen world!

Again, this is much different than what you hear coming out of many pulpits today... In our day, it’s all about ME, ME, ME...US, US, US... Beloved, it has never been about US, and it never will be. Matter of fact, the very problem (according to the gospel) is that it’s been about US for way to long! Most of us in this room have lived the majority of our lives here on earth, for OURESELVES! The call of the gospel is to turn from that, to live our lives unto God...

Jesus gave us a good example of “*How we are to pray*” in John 12... As we read this keep in mind, that He is referring to His death on the cross...

(Jn 12) ²⁷ *Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.* ²⁸ *Father, glorify thy name.*

“*Father save me from this hour*”... would be a normal response that would rise up from a troubled soul. The normal response might be, “*God, get me out of this, I don’t like this...*” But here Jesus models for us, the fact that it is not our desires that we are to seek, but the Fathers! His one goal, His one ambition in His life on this earth, was to glorify the Fathers Name! Look at what He says, in light of the certain affliction and suffering that is coming to Him... ²⁸ *Father, glorify thy name.*

²⁸ *Father, glorify thy name... **Hallowed be your name**...* Beloved, it is all about HIM! At the heart of prayer, it’s all about HIM... It’s about HIS glory, HIS kingdom, HIS will...

T: At the heart of prayer, is the “*Setting apart &Glorification*” of His name! ***Hallowed be your name.***

(John 14:13) ¹³ *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* ¹⁴ *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

All petitions, all supplications, all passions, all request, all needs are subject to God’s glory...

“*Hallowed be Thy name...Thy kingdom come...Thy will be done*”... It’s all about YOUR name, YOUR will and YOUR kingdom!

(Vs 2) ² *When ye pray, say, **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name**...*