

Prayer – part 2

Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

- We have already looked at Our Father.

In Heaven

- We are not only praying to our Father, but our Father who is in heaven. In other words, our Father who is in a place to actually do something about what we are praying about.
- **Isaiah 55:8–9** For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.⁹ “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.
 - We are praying to One who can see the whole picture. Who is wiser, who understands.
- **2 Chronicles 20:5–6** Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,⁶ and said: “O LORD God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?
 - We are praying to One who has unlimited power, and rules over everything on the earth and none can withstand Him.
- **Isaiah 43:15–21** I *am* the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.”¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters,¹⁷ Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick):¹⁸ “Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness *And* rivers in the desert.²⁰ The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness *And* rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen.²¹ This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

- **Romans 9:19–20** You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” ²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, “Why have you made me like this?”
 - We are praying to One who knows us better than we know ourselves.

How does God being “in Heaven” affect the way we pray?

- When we pray we should pray knowing that:
 - God is able to respond
 - **Isaiah 59:1** Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.
 - God knows exactly how to respond
 - God’s response is based on His knowing me completely
 - **Jeremiah 1:5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”
- Our prayer should have this in mind:
 - **Ephesians 3:20–21** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

4 Things God being in heaven reveals to us:

Omnipresence - 1 Kings 8:27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

Majesty and Dominion. Power and Might - 2 Chronicles 20:5–6 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, ⁶ and said: “O LORD God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

Omniscience - Psalm 33:13–15 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. ¹⁴ From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; ¹⁵ He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

Purity and Holiness - Revelation 4:8 *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"*

Hallowed be Your Name

- Hallowed = Holy
- The right kind of prayer has a passion for God's glory
 - **Psalm 150:1–2** Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! ² Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!
- When we come to God, we praise Him, for He is worthy of praise
 - **Revelation 4:11** You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."
- Our focus is on God. God is greater than our needs. He is greater than the needs of the world. He is the source of everything we need. So, it only makes sense that we begin with our eyes fixed on Him.
 - **Psalm 92:1–2** *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ² To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,*
 - **2 Peter 1:2–4** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.
- We are designed to praise Him
 - **Luke 19:37–40** Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, ³⁸saying: " *'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!* Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹And some of

the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” ⁴⁰ But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

The praise of God should set the tone for the rest of our prayer.

- We are praising His name – which is His character.
- If we are declaring the goodness of God, then our prayers should reflect that He will be good.
- If we are praising the might and power of God, then our prayers should reflect that He is able.
- If we are praising the wisdom and knowledge of God, then we should expect wise counsel from God.

But the ultimate drive for praising God is simply His worth. (Pro Tip – To praise the nature and character of God correctly, you must know Him, at least be getting to know Him).