



Our Father

Matthew 6:9

Big Idea for the Series:

“Christians offer their prayers like sailors use their pumps – only when the ship leaks.”

– Unknown

But to experience the fullness of God, the blessing of His communion, to open the floodgates of Heaven’s blessing, believers must pray. If Jesus prayed, how much more must we depend on prayer?

Prayerless praying is an empty, meaningless religious ritual unless it is done in the heart and will of God.

A **prayerful heart** and spirit ensure the communion necessary to know and discern the will and heart of God.

“Prayer is not trying to get God to agree with us or to provide for our selfish desires. Prayer is affirming God’s sovereignty, righteousness, and majesty and seeking to conform our desires and our purposes to His will and glory.”

– John MacArthur

Prayer is so important to God that ...

- Keeps them in **bowls** (Revelation 5:8; 8:3)
- Commissioned His own Holy Spirit to **help** us (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18)
- Jesus carefully **instructs** us how to pray (Matthew 6:5-13)

Prayer is effective; it makes a difference; it can accomplish much (James 5:16).

Warning: This is not a group of words to repeat to God. “This, then, is **how** you should pray: ... (v. 9)” Not, “This, then, is **what** you should pray.”

See Prayer Card Insert

Bottom Line: Almighty God is **Our** Holy, Exalted Heavenly Daddy.

We often think of God ...

as far off, unconcerned, and a bit impersonal.

Sometimes ... We get so comfortable in our relationship with God that we begin taking advantage. We begin praying selfish prayers, and we lose reverence for God.

Another piece of this tension is apathy or a cooling of spirit toward God and the things of God.

Overview:

God's supreme purpose for prayer is to glorify Himself; therefore, true prayer, just like true worship, centers on God's glory not on man's needs (John 14:13).

The Lord's Prayer is divided into two sections with three petitions each:

<u>God's Glory</u>	<u>Man's Need</u>
God's Name	Our Needs
His Kingdom	Our Forgiveness
His Will	Our Protection

Our Father

- Shows us the father/child relationship.
- Reflects unselfishness.
- Reflects family devotion and obedience.

The Jews in the first century saw God in a remote, distant, faded figure who once guided their ancient ancestors, but Jesus introduced God the Father in heaven as ...

Patēr [pa-tear] (Greek)

Abba (Aramaic)

Daddy or Papa (English)

Implications of Viewing God as Father

1. Settles (Ends) Fear (Security)
2. Settles Uncertainties (Hope)
3. Settles the Matter of Loneliness (Accepted)
4. Settles the Matter of Selfishness (Selflessness)
5. Settles the Matter of Resources (Plenty)
6. Settles the Matter of Obedience (Peace)

Next Steps:

- Memorize Matthew 6:9**
- Think: Our Father**
- Pray Every Morning During This Series**
- Join Us Next Week for Part 2 – *The Lord's Prayer: Our Father's Will***