



“The Lord’s Prayer: Part 1”

October 10, 2021

Matthew 6:9

[9] Pray then like this:

*“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.*

Psalms 67

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

*[1] May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah*

*[2] that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.*

*[3] Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*

*[4] Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah*

*[5] Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!*

*[6] The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.*

*[7] God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him! (ESV)*

Fun Question: What is one accomplishment people might not know about that makes you proud?

1. Whether we think of Elohim or Adonai or what appears to be the more personal name Yahweh, it is nonetheless striking that God is seldom named or prayed to as Father in the Hebrew Scriptures. Images such as Yahweh as judge, or Yahweh as warrior, or Yahweh as king, are far more prevalent in the Hebrew Scriptures.

It is not until Jesus comes when he himself places the emphasis on God as Abba, a personal term of reverent endearment, kind of like Daddy, probably best rendered as "Dearest Father". Jesus never addresses God as King or Master or by other terms familiar to early Jews, but Abba.

The word *Abba* was the word Jesus regularly used to address his earthly father Joseph from the time he was a baby until Joseph's death. Everyone used the word. But it was never used of God—under any circumstances.

What term for God elicits and expresses an emotional connection with Him for you? In other words: do you have a meaningful term of endearment for God, and if so, why that reference?

2. What are some moments in your life when you experienced God's Fatherhood? What are reasons why his Fatherhood can even feel so foreign or absent even?
3. Why is it significant that the first phrase in the Lord's prayer is "Father **in heaven**"? Why is that description rather than just referring to him as "Father" important?
4. To "hallow" something is to make something sacred or holy; to set apart and make precious. How have you witnessed God hallow His own name (Himself) in your own life and in the lives of others?

Deeper Study: Read and observe Psalm 67. What are some ways this psalm expresses the character of God as told in Matthew 6:9?

