

Our Father

Restored of Prayer

Intro

This is the very first time that the words (Our Father) are addressed to Θ in the Bible. It is difficult for us to appreciate what this meant - we are used to calling Θ "father". But not so the disciples. The few times it occurs in O.T. stands for a national, not a personal relationship. The O.T. has many names of Θ , but from Genesis to Malachi you will not find a single instance of an individual addressing Θ as Father.

Does it matter what we call Him? Evidently it does to Jesus. Our concept of Θ is basic & fundamental to our praying - Jesus wanted us to recognize, be aware of the one to whom we are praying - not just a name, ~~title~~, but Our Father - Personal & intimate, love & care at the heart of it. This is the way Jesus prayed & He invites us to share this relationship.

It of dialing a number & calling a loved one. The essence of true prayer is frank in these words - Our Father - why?

I. They Revealed Prayer's Restriction, Requirement - these words stand like a guard before the door, the theme room - of those who can say, "Our Father" may enter.

- Prayer is a family activity between the father & His children.

(1) - ~~only children of Θ by faith may truly pray~~

(2) - ~~The children must~~

(1) - we must be children if we are to approach Θ

(2) - ~~we must approach Θ as a child~~

we must be child-like in our approach - the words suggest the spirit in which prayer should be offered.

~~A - Submission~~ A - Dependence B - Submission C - Confidence

II They Reveal Prayer's Right = what right have we to pray & expect Q to answer. The right of relationship - the same right my child has to ask of me.

- 1- Right to approach = J. D. Jones story - "Your emperor, my father."
- 2- Right to ask = "Your father knows what you need?"
Matt 7 - How much more...

III Prayer's Responsibility =

1- to the family = "our" "us" note the plural pronouns. The believer always prays by virtue of his union w/ other believers. Even when I pray in private I pray as a part of the Body of X. There is a sense in which the Body prays when a single member prays.

② we always pray as a member of the family, never as an isolated person - therefore we can never pray selfishly - what we desire for ourselves, we desire for every member of the family.

"our debts"

If we can't honestly desire the same for every member, we are not truly praying - a greater cause than my own interests = the Father & the Family - Prayer not a tool to achieve own ends.

③ I cannot pray "our Father" if I live in a water-tight compartment, w/out fellowship

④ Promising Partnership

2- TO THE FATHER - "In heaven" not his address -

(1) to keep from overfamiliarity

(2) a high concept of Q in prayer = Perfect, Power, Transcend, Changeless, Eternal, perfect

Shows the mind father from our humanness - no indulgence

(3) occupied w/ things of heaven rather than earth

10 - Persistent Praying = Elijah - 7 times = Praying thru
to waters = victory of Calvary won in the praying of Gethsemane -
Victory won in prayer = arms & arms in Ex 17
Why persist? = not begging a reluctant D - but faith = I know

The door will open

1 - Warfare = Dan 10 - "Satan hindered me" - wrestle in
prayer - Rom 5:30

→ Earnest & Expectant

2. Genuine & Sincere = desire strong earnest

3. Need to be changed - able to receive it

→ discipline = asking for selfish reasons -

4. to humble us to total dependence on D.

Refine & Repine

The Refinery of persistent praying -

Prevalent Prayer -