

God Is Our Father



The word "father" has several meanings. It describes a relationship, an emotional connection, a prime mover, a creator, a founder, a pioneer and an author. It is both a term of endearment and a title of authority. The Person we call "God" is the Father of all creation - He is also One who offers to be your father. Holding both of these in our minds at one time can be difficult. It is not surprising that some Christians lean heavily towards a remote, austere God while others swing the pendulum towards an indulgent "Daddy".

Spiritual Father

John 4:23-24 NIV Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. (24) God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Jesus invites us to step out of mere physical, human ideas about fathers and enter the realm of the Spirit of God. The Father of all things is looking for a people who will worship Him (honour and adore Him) through the Spirit and according to the Truth.

Our Father

Matthew 6:9 NIV "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Jesus could pray "My Father". He is the Firstborn, the only begotten of the Father. We are adopted into His family. We have a corporate identity as the people of God and come to Him as "Our Father". We pray to One Who is in heaven. We do not pray to an ancestor or a saint. We do not pray to a denomination or building. We pray One Who hears us and Who loves us.

Father of Blessing

Ephesians 1:3 NIV Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Blessed? Made happy, anointed, holy, special - all words to describe being blessed. The idea is of a happy children living obediently and lovingly in their Father's House. The amazing thing is that every child, even though adopted, shares the inheritance of the True Son. All that He merits, is given to us too.

Father at Work

John 5:17 NIV In his defence Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."

We read about God resting from all His work on the seventh day. However, Sin came into the world and God began His new work, planned before time began. Its purpose is rejoicing over repentant sinners rescued and received into the Father's House.

Father who Hears

John 16:26-27 NIV In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. (27) No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

May I say that I am surprised at how little I hear of prayer to the Father. Jesus told us to pray in His Name to the Father IN the Spirit. That means coming to God the Father in the authority Jesus' Name. Not in our flesh, not in our name but naming Jesus as our right to approach the Father with our requests.

Father of many Sons

Galatians 4:6 NIV Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Every real Christian, male or female is made a son of God through faith in Jesus the Son. This is amazing grace. Praying in the name of the Son demands that we understand how the Son would pray. Prayer begins with realising we have the Creator as our Father our Abba, This is a term of love and endearment that only the Holy Spirit can evoke in us.

Father of Glory

Ephesians 1:17 NIV I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

What do we ask of God? Do we come to Him in worship as the glorious Father? Do we understand that the whole point of it all is that we get to know God as our Father through the Spirit Who gives us wisdom and revelation.