

Subject: *Our Father in Heaven*

Scripture: *Matthew 6:5-13*

Today when we honor our earthly fathers, it is also a perfect time to remember and honor our heavenly Father. This is a well known text that focuses on prayer. It is a powerful reminder that we have a Father in heaven who hears prayer and invites us to pray. It reminds that He is a kind, generous, compassionate Father, so much greater and better than any earthly father.

First, let's consider what the Bible says about God as our Father. In one sense, He is the Father of all people, and in another sense He is the Father only of those who are in his family.

1. He is the Father of all creation

He is the Father of all created things. He is the Father of lights (Jas. 1:17) and the Father of spirits (Heb. 12:9). He is the Creator, the Source, and the Sustainer of all things. He made all people and cares for all people.

Malachi 2:10 *Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?*

Acts 17:28-29 ²⁸ *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.* ²⁹ *Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

2. He is the Father of the nation Israel

God called a people to be His special people. God began with Abraham and created a holy nation.

Deuteronomy 14:1 *Ye are the children of the LORD your God...*

Deuteronomy 32:6 *Do ye thus repay the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?*

Isaiah 63:16 *Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.*

Isaiah 64:8 *But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*

Hosea 11:1 *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*

Malachi 1:6 *A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honor? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name.*

3. He is the Father of Jesus Christ

A. The Father loves and is well pleased with His Son

At Christ's baptism the Father spoke from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17). Again when He was transfigured on the mountain the Father spoke, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 17:5).

Hebrews 1:5 *For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?*

B. **The Father reveals Himself through His Son**

Christ came down from heaven to show us the perfect character of the Father.

Matthew 11:27 *All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*

John 5:19-23 ¹⁹ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.* ²⁰ *For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.* ²¹ *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.* ²² *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:* ²³ *That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.*

John 14:6-9 ⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* ⁷ *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.* ⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.* ⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

4. **He is the Father of His redeemed people**

God the Father sent His only begotten (one-of-a-kind) Son into the world to save sinners. Someone said, “God had only one Son and He made Him a missionary.”

God is the special Redeemer-Father of all who know, love, and honor Him and all who repent of their sins and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Christ made this clear when He spoke to a group of self-righteous Jews in John 8.

John 8:42-44 ⁴² *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.* ⁴³ *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.* ⁴⁴ *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.*

A. **He is Father of those with humble hearts**

You can't be a child of God if you are full of pride. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

Psalms 103:13 *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

B. **He is Father of those who receive Christ by faith**

John 1:11-13 ¹¹ *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.* ¹² *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on*

his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

C. He is Father of those who live by the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:5-9 ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:15-16 ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

D. He is Father of those who have all spiritual blessings

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

If God is our heavenly Father, we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. We have things that money can't buy and death can't take away.

If God is our heavenly Father, we enjoy His fatherly goodness, kindness, love, providence, mercy, patience, compassion, and care. We can pray to Him and trust Him for all our needs. He gives us comfort in our trials, refuge in our storms, and encouragement for every day.

I recently read this by A. W. Tozer: "You can live on froth and bubbles and little wisps of badly understood theology—until the pressure is on. And when the pressure is on, you'll want to know what kind of God you're serving." And we could add, you'll want to know that God is your heavenly Father.

Here's the good news. Every one of you can have a heavenly Father who knows all about you, loves you in spite of what He knows, cares about you, and who loved you enough to send His Son to die for your sins, forgive your sins by His grace, and bring you into His eternal family. That's the kind of Father we all need and can have when we put our faith in His Son.