

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC100 “Drawing Near to Our Father in Heaven”

**Pastor walks his children through** Westminster Shorter Catechism question 100—especially explaining how prayer draws near to the transcendent and imminent God as confident children of an infinitely good Father.

Q100. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us? *The preface of the Lord's prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.*

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

The catechism question this week is, What does the preface of the Lord's prayer? Teach us. And the answer is the preface of the lord's prayer. Which is our father. Which are in heaven. Teacheth us to draw near to god. All holy reverence. And confidence. As children to a father able and ready to help us.

And that we should pray with and for Others.

So this idea of drawn near to goddess, probably more precious to us after The opening chapters of levticus and Discovering that? Uh, the idea of being brought near is actually the the core idea of the word that is often translated. Offering. That collab the verb for drawing near is.

Uh, what is behind the word? Corban? Which is the word for offering. And, And so, But when we say our father, which art in heaven, We are embracing the reality that. Uh, even though he is, The heavenly father, even though he is high above us and what we would call transcendent, Which actually means out of our reach.

Yet he gives us words by which to address him in prayer that communicate to us, that he is also imminent. And by which, Um, which means that he is ready to hand. As it were. And so he gives us to draw near to him. We had the Scripture promise.

In the children's catechism class yesterday. Draw near to god and he will draw near to you to something. That we have also seen continually as we've considered these And sacrifices in humidicus, that looked forward to the lord jesus christ. And now knowing that he drew near to us first and taking on our form that we might actually Be drawn near to god in him.

So this is, this is an important part of praying. That you realize that when you begin to pray, You are actually drawing near. To god. And so, we Address him. That we greet him. Uh, identify him. Our father, which art in heaven? Where acknowledging? That we are drawing near to him, he has promised to draw near to us.

Even though we are on earth, And he is in heaven yet. Of course he is. Omnipresent. And communicates his nearness to us in part, by the way of prayer. So the preference of the lord's prayer which is our father, which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to god with all holy.

Reverence and confidence. As children to a father. Not children ought to honor and respect their fathers. Even a part from The preaching of the gospel god for. Uh, the sake of his mercy. On many societies. Has granted them to. Maintain a great respect. By children to fathers or to.

Uh, to grandfathers. And that's a kindness of God. It's the right relationship of a child to a father that none of us deserve to have. You don't deserve to be able to honor your father. But god, and his mercy gives you to do so. And now, if we are supposed to honor our fathers who are on earth, How much more then?

Should we honor? Our father, who is in the heaven? And so, when we say our father, There's already reference there because he is father. But then, when we say our father, which art in heaven, We magnify the reverence with which we should be. Approaching god, but not just reverence But confidence.

That we are sure of his interest in us that he cares for us. Like a father for his children, it's all one of three. That teaches us to pray and teaches us to sing. Or as paraphrased, in the psalm, Father, like he tends and spares us. And so we're coming to a father.

Who cares for us and who knows? Uh, what we need and who is Able to give us what we need and willing to give us what we need. And so we have The breakfast of lord's Prayer which is our father which art in heaven teach about to draw near to god with all holy reverence and confidence.

The preface of the lord's prayer, which is our father, which heart in heaven teaches us to draw near to god. With all holy references, confident and confidence as children to a father, able and ready. To help us. And, Uh, what a help and encouragement and comfort, and joy, and strength.

This is to us as we pray to god, that the lord jesus has taught us to start our praying in such ways. A child who knows that his daddy cares about him. A child who has great confidence in his daddy's wisdom and his daddy's ability. It has. Uh, It has a great advantage in life.

That he can live with confidence and joy. Under his father's care and a great advantage when he comes to his father, Knowing that his daddy. Loves him. And we'll listen to him. And that, however, daddy answers will be wise. Good. And the daddy will be able to follow through.

Now, this is Um, True of earthly, fathers. To a lesser or greater extent, but never Completely and entirely true. The way it is with our heavenly father. So, the preface of the lord's prayer, which is our father, which art in heaven teaches us to draw near to god. With all holy reverence and confidence as children to a father able and ready to help us.

And, That we should pray with and for others. Before we move on to, I'm sorry. I thought that's fine before we move on to the word hour. I think it's helpful. It's use an old phrase, i don't know. From whence, it first came, Uh, but we must get over that fleshly.

Wrong idea of god. That he has the good things. Um, Tightly. Um, No, in his hand and that prayer has to pry them out. And the idea that you're trying to overcome, God's resistance or overcome God's unwillingness? By our praying, no. We come to a father who loves us is willing.

He is able he's ready to help us. Prayer is a laying hold of his willingness. He more. Gladly gives the good to us. More willingly gives the good to us, then we ever come to him in prayer to ask for it. This is especially of the father but we see the father's character and the son.

And it is good for you to remind yourself sometimes. That jesus went more willingly to the cross for me. And i have ever come. In prayer to him. As you both.

Take great comfort and strength. From the willingness of our god to do us good. And, Correction, and repute.

From how comparatively unwilling we are to be done, good by god. And how wonderful he is. Well, then we're already to notice that it's Our. Father. Which are in heaven. And so, you wouldn't Use the royal plural with god, if you are praying by Yourself. And so it's obvious that you're praying with others.

In this prayer. And therefore not just with others but all the good things, even this recognition of god together, And desire to grow into, knowing god the way he teaches us to address him. That this is something that we desire for our brothers and sisters as well. So we're not just praying with them, but for them, And so the teaching of the question is a whole.

What does the preface of the lord's prior teach us? The preface of the lord's prayer, which is our father, which art in heaven. Teacheth us to draw near to god. With all holy reference and confidence. As children to a father able and ready to help us. And that we should pray with.

And for, Others. Praise God. It is the father's pleasure. To give us the kingdom. He knows how to give good gifts. He knows everything we need before we ask. Is planned for us each day. Right amount of food and drink, and clothing and trouble. He is a good father.