

Sermon Outline

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:5-14 (p.1380); Matthew 7:7-12 (p.1382); Hebrews 12:7-11 (p.1717)

"The Lord's Prayer"

1. *Our Father in heaven*
2. Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
3. Give us today our daily bread
4. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us
5. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
6. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever: Amen

"This, then, is how you should pray" (Mt 6:9)

1. The Big Idea: your picture of God determines how you pray

2. According to Jesus, God is our Father ...

Mt 9:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Eph 1:4 ... In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ ...

Mt 7:9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

"If we have had a sin-stained relationship with a difficult, distant or abusive father, we find it difficult to grasp what the Bible is saying about God when it calls him our Father. The problem is that we are working in the wrong direction. We think that God is like our fathers. But the Bible says that our fathers, at their best, are like God." (P Grimmond, *When the noise won't stop: a Christian guide to dealing with anxiety* (2022))

i. A good father doesn't always give you everything you ask for

Mt 26:39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

ii. A good father shows his love for you by _____ you

Heb 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Gal 4:6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

3. According to Jesus, God is our Father in Heaven

Eph 1:3 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.

So what, for us?

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all." (JI Packer, *Knowing God* (1973))

1 Pet 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

For discussion: how does the Fatherhood of God help you to pray?