

God, Our Heavenly Father

Are you seeking to please and honor your Heavenly Father? We all have a Father in Heaven. Our Heavenly Father is the God who created us all in His image.(GEN1:26-27) He gave us life and gives us richly all things to enjoy. He is merciful and showers good gifts. *“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”*(MAT5:45) God gives to those who believe in Him, repent of their sin, trust in His Son Jesus as their savior from sin. These enter into a special relationship with Him and are adopted into His spiritual family. They are born again spiritually, receive the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and have eternal life. *“Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?”*(DEU32:6) How can we come to know our Father in Heaven? Along with evidence of His wonderful creations all around you, Heavenly Father has given you many ways to know for yourself that He lives. You can: Talk to Him, He has given us the opportunity to pray to Him and has promised to hear and answer our prayers. through prayer and ask Him for reassurance and love. The first passage where God presents himself as the father of Israel is Exodus 4:22-23. It happens after God calls Moses and commissions him to deliver the Israelite people. Read the testimonies of witnesses called apostles and prophets. They have had sacred experiences with God and have recorded these experiences in sacred scriptures called Bible. Keep His commandments, which bring you closer to God and help you know that He lives. Your belief in God will grow as you: Pray to Heavenly Father. 'Seek and you shall find' means, come to God and your prayers will be answered. Study the scriptures, Obey God's commandments

There are some children who depend on their earthly fathers for protection, provisions, love, care and guidance. Usually children grow up to show these same characteristics to their own children. That's because the role of our earthly fathers is to provide for his family and to protect them. He is to be strong, brave, compassionate and the head of his household. To his sons, a father is supposed to be a model of how to be a man. Still earthly fathers aren't perfect. They make mistakes. However, God makes up the difference when our earthly fathers fail us. The Lord is like a father to His children; *As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.*(PSA103:13) "Compassion" is root that implies action. It's not merely a feeling, but an emotion that inspires action. If one of children is ill, he feels sympathy for the child, but compassion is reflected in nursing the child back to health. If one of his children is in trouble, Dad hurts for him, and compassion inspires him to extricate the child from danger. Like a good father, our heavenly Father demonstrates strong compassion for us.

God understands what we face, and He cares for us. 1 Peter 5:7 encourages us to cast all our anxiety on our Father in heaven for that reason. Lamentations 3:22–23 reminds us, *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* In the times of the Judges, the Lord rescued His people from their enemies. He saw their enemies were afflicting and oppressing them to the point that they were groaning. Therefore, He was moved to pity.(JUD2:16–18) As earthly fathers experience the tender compassion of God, fathers should show that same tenderness and compassion to their children. Fathers should be kind and forgive offenses. God is like a father should be in righteousness, justice, and fairness. Lord is like a father should be in that he knows His children's weaknesses and humanity but builds us up and redeems us. (PSA103:14) Even if our earthly fathers have failed us, our Heavenly Father still protects us and gives us good things "Abba" is the Hebrew word for Father. A child "learns to say 'abbā' (daddy). "Abbā" as a form of address to one's father by children, also used by sons and daughters. *"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"*(ROM8:15) It is about our relationship with God through faith in Christ. It describes how God has changed every Christian's relationship with Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the previous verse, all who are led by the Spirit of God are His children. *"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father'"*(GALA:6) Often the New Testament focuses on God as Father of Jesus Christ his Son. But in several places we see God as the Heavenly Father in the context of a parent and his children: *"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty"*(2CO6:18) It is about being in a loyal and loving relationship with our Father. God has redeemed those who are in Christ from slavery to the law and to their own sinfulness. Now urging believers to separate themselves from any connections to the worship of idols or ongoing participation in sin. *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 our spirits and live!"*(HEB12:9) When God disciplines, His purpose is to make us more like His son. That's an act of love. We should be able to respect discipline that comes from our Heavenly Father.

For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.(MAT6:32) Jesus has given a command to all who call Heavenly Father: Don't be anxious. Don't worry, even about the most basic needs of life, like food, drink, clothing. God will provide for you. He is able, and you are highly valuable to Him Who, then, is the Father? *Jesus answered and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,*(MAT11:25) God the Father is the supreme ruler of the whole universe. Everything in the heavens and the earth is subject to His authority. Life is inherent within the Father. He has absolutely perfect righteous character, Jesus expressly told us to become like Him. *“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect,”*(MAT 5:48) Further, God the Father is the source of every blessing and spiritual blessings in Christ. *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.*(EPH1:3)

The Bible is clear that when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are adopted into God's family. *"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him."*(1JO5:1) You are a child of God if you have believed, a belief that causes you to surrender your life to Jesus as your Lord. When we put our trust in Jesus and receive his free gift of salvation. *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"*(JOH1:10-13) By accepting Jesus as our Savior, you are "born again"(JOH3:1-8) Being born again means that you reject your old life and you intend to start a new one following the teachings of Jesus Christ. When we are born again and the Spirit enters us and impels us to cry the intimate, "Abba! Father!" Thru believing in Jesus Christ, we are adopted into God's family as sons and daughters. Our status is of an heir: *And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.*(ROM8:15) Jesus declares that peacemakers are blessed: they have received a good thing, because they will be called children of God. When we work for peace, we represent God's family well. *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"*(MAT 5:9) The physical world needs the intervention and attention of God's children. *"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."*(ROM8:19,21) A moment is coming, when those in Christ will be glorified and it will become we are God's children. We become children of God not by earning God's favor, but through faith in Jesus.(GAL3:26) Our witness as God's family points others toward God. *"So that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky"*(PHI2:15). It means that you continually devote your life to doing God's will and obeying His commandments. And as they remained harmless, innocent, and morally pure they would shine as a beacon of light pointing the way to God in a sinful world filled with corruption. As God's children, we are called to live in a way that reflects his character and values. *"This how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are"*(1JO3:10) A child of God will seek to live according to God's ways, practice righteousness. They may fail, but they will not persist in deliberately walking in darkness. Those who show no desire to love others, especially their fellow believers, cannot truly claim to be a child of God. *"How great is the love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"*(1JOH3:1) Take time each day to remind yourself of your true identity: you are a beloved child of God because he has chosen to love you. Talk to God as a little child might talk to a parent that is loved and trusted. God is our loving Father. We should remember that in all that we do, we are representing God, since we are his children. So, we should let our light and goodness shine, such that when others see, they will praise and glorify God.

The Bible is full of passages declaring God to be Our loving Heavenly Father. One of the best known of God as Father is seen in the parable of the prodigal son.(LUK15:11-32). Here, this young man left his father and home, went to a distant land, wasted his time, money all he owned in sinful rebellion. Eventually this young man realized his condition. He was hungry, lonely, in rags, and tending pigs for a job. He realises his foolishness then he made an important decision. He said, "I will arise and go to my father." This inward decision resulted in a change in his outward actions. He went home to his father to seek forgiveness expecting shame and condemn from his father. Instead, the father is shown to have been looking every day for his son to come back, upon seeing him, father runs to him, lavishing him with love and gifts. Never forget this of the Father's love for you: God will never forget you, reject you, and always desires that you will come home to Him. This promise is for everyone who believes in Jesus. Therefore, delivers you from all aspects of the kingdom of darkness-spiritual death, sickness, disease, tragedy, calamity, poverty, fear, oppression. But not only does repentance open our eyes to our sinfulness, it also opens them to greatness of God's forgiveness. And lead you in right direction towards God's will for your life.

Repentance ...the change of mind: Genuine repentance begins with heartfelt conviction of sin, eye-opening, heart-rending awareness of having oppose, rebelled God. The young man realized his sinful condition. He made a decision to go to his father's house and repent of his sin. This is an example of repentance, an inward decision which results in outward action. Luke 15:20 records how the young man arose and left the old life and went to his father to start a new life. Prodigal son in his own sinful condition, every man has turned his back on God as his Father and on Heaven as his home. Each step he takes is a step away from God and one step nearer the spiritual death. There is a major decision he must make. He must "come to himself" recognize his spiritual condition. He must make a decision which will result in change of spiritual direction. That change will turn him from sin towards God. *Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance.* ie. let your lives prove your change of heart.(MAT3:8)

"But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand."(ISA64:8) Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay. When we are open to God's will in our lives, He molds, transforms, sanctifies us as we walk with Him. When we come to the Potter, we need to surrender all to Him, all our imperfections and let Him be our Master. When the potter takes a lump of clay, he usually does so with a plan in mind. As the potter has a plan, so, God has a plan for our lives. Recognize that the clay is submissive in the hands of the Master. We need to let Him mold us and make us the vessel of honor that He wants us to useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. When we are in the Potter's hands, we can trust Him, where the sanctification work is done, cleanse it with washing of water by the word, transforming us into the saints He wants us to be. He is molding you to be just like Jesus. You are to be in the image of Jesus and are a work in progress.

To whom should we address our prayers? Jesus taught us to pray to God as Heavenly Father "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven; hallowed be Your name"(MAT6:9) What is commonly called the Lord's Prayer is a model, or outline, prayer rather than repeating the exact words. Prayer is time spent in the presence of the Father. It is not only talking to Him but listening to His voice; it is a two-way conversation. Our Father wants you to spend time in His presence; praising, worshiping and communing with Him. He never ignores you, and He loves to hear your voice. God wants us to know the intimacy of Him like a small child does with their dad, but also to understand that Our Heavenly Father is the Creator of the universe. He is mighty, powerful, awesome living God. Allow God to soften your heart so that you can call Him "Father" and know that He looks upon you with favour and listens to your voice with delight. *"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!"* (MAT7:11) God as a generous Father eager to give good gifts to His praying children. Jesus commands His followers to continually ask and seek, with confidence that they will receive and find. *"When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* (MAT6:6) Jesus said regular prayer to the Father should be done in secret, and Father will still hear and reward you.

Knowing that God is Our Father is much more than just knowing some verses; it is a truth that should change our lives. Below are the fact that God's Father-heart is constantly towards us. It means we are constantly loved by Our Father: You can be confident that your Father loves you constantly with an unchanging love. God declares that in His love, He wants to be involved in every area of your life. Becoming a part of the family of God means that your Father provides for you in many ways, for example: Your daily food – Jesus taught us to pray in faith – "Give us this day our daily bread" – knowing that Our Faithful Father will provide as we ask. God does not leave you to walk alone but gives you the Holy Spirit, the living presence of God within you. "how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."(LUK11:13) In order to do the work the Father calls us to do, He equips us, giving us gifts so that we can do His work, in His power, for His glory.(1CO12:1-11).

You must live each day knowing that God is ready and willing to forgive your sins. When you sin, remember you have a Father who loves you unconditionally and is waiting for you to turn back to Him. He loves to forgive you. Our Heavenly Father loving us so much that He will discipline and correct us at times. Our earthly fathers corrected us so that we would live in the best way possible. Likewise, God disciplines us so that we might become more like Jesus. There is no need to fear the future, or to fear death; for through our faith in Jesus, God our Father declares that there is an eternal home for us in Heaven. When this life ends, we shall be welcomed into Heaven! This gives our hearts great peace and security, for we know that we have believed and trusted our Father while living here on Earth. As we move on to Heaven, we can be sure that Jesus has prepared a place for us.(JOH14:2)

Jesus said, *"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*(JOH8:29) Because Jesus was the Son of God, He knew what pleased God. We have a moral code written on our hearts.(ROM2:15) We know instinctively when we are doing wrong because we were created in the image of God. We can please God is to submit to His authority in our lives. We start by receiving His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior and Lord. Those who come to God through His Son can be forgiven and made right with Him. Once we've been born again as a child of God, we are pleasing to Him. We are "in Christ", therefore seen by God as perfect, as Christ is perfect. *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased,"*(MAT3:17) We are accepted in the Beloved because of that great gift and the love poured out on us by spirit of God, we please Him. "You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely look for him," Hebrews 11:6 We receive His love by faith. Faith makes us righteous. We have the exact same faith that Jesus has. That means we are able to do all the things Jesus did when He was on earth. We can receive from God exactly as Jesus did. We can pray and receive from God the way Jesus did. We are just as pleasing to our Heavenly Father as Jesus was. Micah 6:8 tells us what pleases God, listing three basic actions: to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. When we live with integrity in both our public and private lives, when we show mercy to those who wrong us, and when we cling tightly to God's Word and crave His presence, we will make choices that please God. We can aim for perfection as we model ourselves after Jesus. God was "well pleased" with His Son and the more we resemble Jesus, the more we will also please God. Spend time with God, talking with Him in prayer. Read God's Word daily and meditate on it night and day. Pursue righteousness and quickly confess your sin when you go astray.

We honor Heavenly Father as we deepen our relationship with Him by keeping all the covenants/ordinances. He blesses with His Spirit to guide/strengthen them. "Loving Father I come to You in humility of heart and ask that You make and mould me into a vessel that is pleasing to You - for Your praise and glory, in Jesus name I pray."

Revelation 21:1-22:5, *"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."* The greatest blessing of heaven will be unhindered fellowship with God. Saints are brought together in a perfect, eternal union. This is complete restoration of paradise, fulfilling God's promise, the new Jerusalem. This glorious hope gives us comfort and joy in any situation. It helps keep spiritual fervor to serve the LORD.