



A caring Father

One of the disciples asked Jesus: "Teach us to pray". Jesus prayed in a way which his disciples didn't know. The disciples were full of respect for God. They were brought up with the image of God as the Almighty, Holy, Omnipresent, Righteous and Merciful One. Jesus spoke in a different way with God than they were used to.

Matt 6:9,10

Jesus said: "9 This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven".

In this prayer Jesus teaches that God is a Father for us. He is not only a King, the Almighty of the Kingdom, but also the Father.

What does the Father think about?

Matt 6:11-13

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God always wanted us to understand that He wants to be our Father, wants to care for us, wants to love us, accept and protect us. He longs for us to respond as a son or daughter and receive what He has for us. He desires a restored relationship with us in which we can freely receive His love. Yet people didn't understand this principle and so Jesus came to restore this.

Jesus came to reveal the Father

John 1:1-5,8,9,10,14

God the Father wanted to live among men and let his voice be heard because the people normally didn't understand his voice. He regularly sent prophets who did hear his voice, yet these prophets only knew God in part. God the Father therefore chose to come to the earth Himself and to live among men. So as not to frighten people He came in the body of a man, Jesus. He was the son of Mary. God's Spirit begot Jesus in Mary. Many Jews were waiting for the Messiah, the Redeemer. Nobody expected the Messiah would come to earth this way, as Jesus the Son of God. Everyone thought that God would establish His Kingdom in a completely different way, namely as a Mighty King. Jesus on the other hand came in innocence, non-threatening, as a baby with no power of appearance.

His goal was to show people who God really is and how to live in trust with the Father.

What does Jesus show about the Father?

John 1:18

John 4:34 8:29

John 5:19-20

John 10:38

John 14:9

John 14:6

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The Father and Jesus, an example to us

The Father speaks His love and joy out over Jesus.
He acknowledges Jesus as His Son.
The Father protects Jesus from accusers.
Because Jesus lives in His Father's will,
the Father does not allow anything which He does not want;
even the King can do nothing unless God permits it.
The Father sent Jesus and gave Him His power and authority.

Luke 3:21,22

Matt 17:5

John 8:59

John 19:10,11

Matt 28:18

God, now also a Father to us

The most important thing Jesus tells His disciples is
that they too can now experience God as Father.
Jesus says that we can love Him and just as He does,
can live in dependence and trust.
The Father will then make Himself known to us.
The Father will then come and live with us. God the Father loves you.

John 20:17

John 14:18-21

John 14:23

How are believers to be called?

Gal 4:4-7

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That means that we are heirs.

Pain

If we have not had a good relationship with our earthly father then this is often very painful and can in some cases influence our lives still. Often we project that wrong image on God. If, for example, we have been brought up legalistically and had to do lots of things, then we expect God to also be like this. Or if we had a father who was often angry or even aggressive, then it can be difficult to see God the Father as loving and caring.

Healing is possible

Luke 15:11-24

In this story we see the father waiting for the son. The father continues to love the son despite his bad life. This is how God the Father waits for you. The father gives the son new clothes, a ring and sandals. He also arranges a feast. That is how God the Father wants to receive you.

EXERCISE:



Ask God if He will reveal His Father heart this coming week.

Do you want to be like the Father? What happens in your heart if you think about this? Think about the great moments you have had with your father. Are there characteristics you see in yourself? Thank God for the fine moments with and good characteristics of your dad. If your father is still living, then maybe you could write this in a card or letter for him. Of course, you can do this for someone who has been like a father to you.

Ask God if there is anything from the past that you need to set straight with your dad. Take time to talk about this question with God. Don't do anything if He doesn't show you anything.



Discuss with your mentor who your dad was for you. Ask if God's Spirit will show you what He wants to heal from your past.

Are there situations you suddenly think of? Do you struggle with certain characteristics of your dad? Have there been painful events to do with your father which need to be healed?

PRINCIPE 6

God the Father loves you! You are of value to Him and he confirms that you are his child, just like He did with his son Jesus.





Matt 6:9,10

9 *This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'*

Matt 6:11-13

11 *Give us today our daily bread.*
12 *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

John 1:1-5, 8-10,14

1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
8 *He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.*
14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:18

18 *No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

John 4:34 8:29

4:34 *My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.*
8:29 *The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.*

John 5:19,20

19 *Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yet to your amazement he will show him even greater works than these."*

John 10:38,

38 *But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.*

John 14:6

6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Luke 3:21-22

21 *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

Matthew 17:5

5 *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!*

John 8:59

59 *At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.*

John 19:10-11

10 *Do you refuse to speak to me? Pilate said. "Don't do you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"*
11 *Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."*

John 20:17

17 *Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."*

John 14:18-21

18 *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.*

John 14:23

23 *Jesus replied, "If anyone who loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are 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 a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Luke 15:11-24

11 Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men. 20 So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.

