



Our Father in Heaven

Lesson 5 • Matthew 6:9

Who You Gonna Call?

In Matthew 6:9 Jesus tells us who to call in His command to keep on praying:

"Pray, then, in this way: "Our Father who is in heaven..."

Three Facts About Praying to Our Father in Heaven

1. Our Heart Cry to the Father Is Often DEFECTIVE.

Our Thoughts of God the Father Are Often...

- Dysfunctional due to our ***fallen FATHERS***.
- Distorted due to our ***fallen CULTURE***.
- Depraved due to our ***fallen NATURE***.

2. Our Heart Cry to the Father Can Be DIFFERENT!

The Triune God Makes the Difference

- The Son ***INVITES*** us to pray to God as *"our Father."*

"Pray, then, in this way, "Our Father who is in heaven"

1. First, Jesus must ***INTRODUCE*** us to God as a Father.

Birthright of Children by the Shed Blood of the Son. John 1:12-13

Legal Right of Sons by the Sovereign Choice of the Father with the Indwelling Spirit. Ephesians 1:4-5; Galatians 3:26; 4:6-7

2. Then Jesus ***INVITES*** us to address God as ***"our Father"*** in prayer.

Old Testament Way of Addressing God

Jesus' Unique Way of Addressing God

*The Heart Cry of the Son to the Father Like ***NO ONE*** before Him!*

- The Spirit ***INDWELLS*** us to cry out: *"Dearest Father!"*

*Jesus' heart cry was ***"ABBA Father"***! Mark 14:36*

"The Father of All Fathers Is Now My Father and Our Father!"

*Our heart cry is the ***SAME***: *"Abba Father"*!*

1. This cry is a ***GIFT*** from the Father to us. *Galatians 4:6*

2. This cry is a **WITNESS** of the Spirit in us. *Romans 8:15-16*

"A sign of spiritual health and authentic faith!" – R. Kent Hughes

3. This cry is the **HEART CRY** of the Son by us. *Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:15*

A Cry from the Heart to God

BE for us *what no one else can be* in our lives: ***Our Dearest Heavenly Father!***

DO for us *what we cannot do* for ourselves: ***Live like Your Holy Children!***

- The Father **INTERVENES** for us from heaven.

What Does "in Heaven" Mean?

1. Our Father is **profoundly MYSTERIOUS** like no other. *Matthew 23:9*
2. Our Father is **perfectly MAJESTIC** like no other. *Matthew 5:48; Ecclesiastes 5:2*
3. Our Father is **powerfully MIGHTY** like no other. *Psalms 119:89; 135:5-6*

He **provides** for us **better** than any father ever could. *Matthew 7:9-11*

He **pardons** us **quicker** than any father ever would. *Luke 15:18-24*

He **protects** us **longer** and **stronger** than any father ever could. *Romans 8:31-39*

3. Our Heart Cry to the Father Should Be DYNAMIC!

Praying to Our Father Who Is in Heaven Should...

- Change the way we **THINK**.

Self-Centered Thinking Can Be Replaced with...
God-centered thinking and *other*-centered thinking.

- Change the way we **LIVE**.

I am free to **give** to others because I have a Father who has promised to **provide** for me.

I am free to **forgive** others because I have a Father who is quick to **pardon** me. *Luke 23:34*

I am free to **live** for God and others because I have a Father who is strong to **protect** me from the world, the flesh, and the devil! *Matthew 26:42; John 12:27-28; John 17:1-6*

- Change the way we **PRAY**.

God Is Our FATHER! *Come to Him with Child-like Boldness!*

God Is Our DEAREST Father! *Cry Out to Him with Heart-felt Tenderness!*

God Is Our HEAVENLY Father! *Count on Him for Life-changing Holiness!*

How Is Your Heart Cry to Our Dearest Father in Heaven?

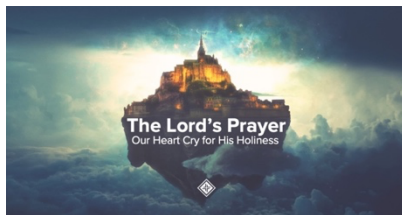
See the Handout: *"My Heart Cry to Our Dearest Father in Heaven"*



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Series Page



***My Heart Cry to
Our Dearest Father
in Heaven!***

Lesson 5

"Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven..." Matthew 6:9

How Is Your Heart Cry to Our Dearest Father in Heaven?

- ☐ Is your heart cry to our Father defective?
 - Dysfunctional due to your ***fallen father?***
 - Distorted due to our ***fallen culture?***
 - Depraved due to your ***fallen nature?***
- ☐ Good News: Your heart cry to the Father can be different!
 - The Son ***invites*** us to pray to God as “*our Father!*”
 - The Spirit ***indwells*** us to cry out: “*Dearest Father!*”
 - The Father ***intervenes*** for us from heaven.
- ☐ MORE Good News: Your heart cry to the Father should be dynamic.
 - Changing the way you ***think***.
 - Changing the way you ***live***.
 - Changing the way you ***pray***.

In the space below write your own personal heart cry to the Father in response to what you have learned about praying like God's Holy Child.

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Take what you wrote and pray through it using the Lord's Prayer to structure your prayer time. Or use the P.R.A.Y. pattern on the back.

Praise the Father for being YOUR FATHER in HEAVEN! He is profoundly mysterious like no other! Holy. Lifted-up. Ruling over everything in heaven and on the earth – *including every aspect of your life*. He is perfectly majestic like no other! No one is more holy, just, righteous, wise, compassionate, and good. He is powerfully mighty like no other! There is no need He can't provide. No sin He can't pardon. No enemy He can't protect you from. PRAISE HIM for BEING THIS KIND of ETERNAL FATHER!

Repent of not letting the reality of God as your Father change your thinking, change your living, and change your praying. Reflect on how – *by His grace through His Son and by His Spirit* – the Fatherhood of the Triune God in heaven can begin to shape your thinking, living, and praying.

Ask the Father to remind you that He intervenes for you from heaven above through your prayers to Him. Ask Him to help you accept the Son's invitation to pray to Him as your Father. Ask Him to lead you to rely on the indwelling Spirit as you cry out: *"Abba! Our Dearest Father!"* Ask these things not just for yourself but also for our entire LifeBridge family.

Yield your heart and prayer life to the Father in the name of His Son. Surrender your struggles with prayer to Him, knowing His Spirit dwells within you to help you pray like His holy child and an adopted son. Commit to memorizing and utilizing the Lord's Prayer when you pray!

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