



## The Lord's Prayer (1) – Father of the Heavens

Message by Andrew Kulasingham, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

### Sermon Outline

**Matthew 6:9** (David Bentley Hart translation)

**Therefore, pray in this way:**

**“Our Father, who are in the heavens, let your name be held holy.”**

**The beginning and end of all prayer is an understanding of the Father heart of God.**

Having a right understanding of God as Father is the key to an effective prayer life.

Today we examine and answer three questions about God.

### 1. Who? – Our Father

The Lord's Prayer begins with the words: Our **Father**.

The Greek text places the emphasis on Father – Πάτερ ἡμῶν – “Father our,” not “Our father” as if we possess him exclusively as our father. He is and always will be Father. The invitation is to let Him Father us.

In prayer we are never the subject; neither our needs nor our circumstances are ever the subject. Father is always the Subject and never the Object.

**Our** This word does not allow an individualistic approach to prayer.

Matthew 18:20 **For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.**

Romans 12:5 **So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.**

### 2. Where? – In the Heavens

The Greek text is in the plural – **heavens**, not heaven. The Biblical concept of heaven is of three realms – **air** (the atmosphere around us, **sky** (the space above us, and **heaven** (the place where God resides – beyond what's visible).

Father is here and now, near and not distant. Father is in the “air” – the space around us – and within us. He is the “air” we breathe.

Acts 17:28 ...for in Him we live and move and have our being.

**God with us – Immanuel** (Matthew 1:23)

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, "God with us").

**God in us** (Colossians 1:27)

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**God is for us** – (Romans 8:23)

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

### **3. How? – Let Your Name be Held Holy**

The opposite of *holy* is *common*. Prayer requires that we hold up Father in His rightful place. Don't trivialise, make ordinary or make familiar.

James 1:17; ( Amplified version)

**Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes].**

1John 1:5 (NKJV) **This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.**

James 1:17 (AMP – Amplified Bible) **Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of lights [the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens], in whom there is no variation [no rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [for He is perfect and never changes].**

#### **Remember:**

- ✓ **The beginning and end of all prayer is an understanding of the Father heart of God.**
- ✓ **Having a right understanding of God as Father is key to an effective prayer life.**
- ✓ **Know and understand that God is only good, always good; God is good all the time.**