

# Hallowed Be Thy Name

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## Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Last Sunday we started a new series on the Lord's Prayer —a prayer that is very familiar to us. Many of learned it by heart as children. A prayer that many Christians sing or recite every Sunday.

**“Our Father, who art in Heaven.”** Just praying those words will be enough to worship our almighty God, the sovereign KING who is at the same time our personal and intimate daddy (*Abba*). Just think this way, we are praying to the sovereign God who knows me by name and knows my needs before even I ask.

### Some general observations:

-The Lord's Prayer is a complete prayer. It touches our **past, present** and **future**. When we ask forgiveness our debts, we are dealing with past issues; when we are praying for daily bread, we are facing present daily situations, and when we look to the future, we pray to God for protection and deliverance from evil.

- It has six petitions; divided to two halves. The first part uses the pronoun “YOUR”; your name, your kingdom, your will. The second half uses the pronoun “US”. Give us daily bread, forgive us, deliver us.... What is Jesus doing here? Jesus starts the prayer with **God's agenda not ours**. We need to learn and trust that God knows our needs much better than we do. Last Sunday I stressed this reality; just praying to God as a Father means I am surrendering to my Daddy who knows me, loves me, cares for me, and protects me. As we study this prayer, we will

discover that seeking God's agenda will put our agenda in the right perspective. In the same sermon, Jesus teaches us **to seek His kingdom first** and everything else will be added to us. There is nothing wrong to ask to God for whatever you want; ask and it will be given. The problem is that we don't know what we are asking for... eventually we learn that our need is fulfilled when God's kingdom and His presence is here in the midst of us (on earth as it is in heaven).

- "On earth as it is in heaven" is central theme in this prayer. Between the two parts of this prayer, comes this little sentence. Hallowed be your name, *on earth as it is in heaven*; your kingdom come, *on earth as it is in heaven*; your will be done, *on earth as it is in heaven*; give us our daily bread, *on earth as it is in heaven*....and so on. According to Matthew's gospel, this prayer comes in the middle of Sermon on the Mount. This phrase "on earth as it is in heaven" appears in the middle of the prayer. The Sermon on the Mount's main theme is the kingdom of God comes in the midst of us. No wonder Jesus' prayer is focused by asking his Father to bring His presence, His authority, His will, His name, His bread, His mercy and forgiveness, and His protection from evil **on earth as it is in heaven**. "It captures the passion of the living God to bring the reality of heaven on earth. It is, after all, one of the reasons he became one of us."<sup>1</sup>

**"Our Father who art in Heaven."** Our daddy, bring yourself, your throne and kingdom to us, to our reality.

**"Hallowed be Thy Name"** (Matthew 6)

Two words: **hallowed** and **name**

### **1. Name:**

Biblically speaking, names represent identity. **Isaac means** "laughter". If you read about his life you will find how his name describes him. It is the same with **Jacob**, the deceiver. **Peter** means rock. Names describe the character of the person. Sevan and I had son we called him Azad, it means free in Armenian. He was as a child very active and "free". My father-in-law said: "You named his Azad (free) he acts Azad (free)."

To know the name of God was essential. God has revealed himself with certain names such as ***El Shaddai***—the mighty God (Gen 17:1), ***El Elyon***—The most High God (Gen 14:20), ***El Roi***—the God who sees (Gen 16:13), ***El Rophe***—the God who heals (Exodus 15:26), and ***Jehovah Sabaoth***—the Lord of Hosts (1 Samuel 1:3).

God is more than these names. In fact, in the OT we see God was called **Yahweh** (Jehovah) and it was forbidden to mention His name; therefore whenever Yahweh appeared in the Scriptures, it was read aloud as *Adonai* (Lord).

Moses on the mountain asked God to identify His name: **“I Am who I Am”** (Exodus 3:14). What is God doing here? He loves His creation. He is ready to be called by different names which describe His attributes and His character. “Yahweh means, ‘I AM,’ but not just in the philosophical sense of ‘I Exist.’ It also means ‘I AM’ in a relational sense: ‘I AM there with you and for you.’ Yahweh is the covenant name.”<sup>2</sup>

**“Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations”.** (Exodus 3:15 ESV)

We cannot contain God in a box by giving names; yet God allowed Himself to be called by names so we can experience and relate to Him in different aspects of life. God is more than those names; God is, God was, and God will be our God tomorrow and forever.

## **2. Hallowed, Be holy**

What does “hallowed” mean? It literally means “to holy-fy.” *Sourp Ella, Sourp Yeghitzi* in Armenian vernacular and classical *kerapar*. The verb is related to adjective holy (*Hagios* in Greek.) “Your name is holyfied, sanctified.” Jesus used the same word in his prayer in John 17. **“Sanctify them by your truth...”** same word.

God is holy. His name is holy. What does it mean?

Darrel Johnson in his book “57 Words that Changed the World” Says:

God is already holy. God's name, the Father's name, is already holy. So in the first petition the verb means, "Your name be treated as holy." That is, "your name be treated as infinitely precious, your name be highly valued, above all other values." Thus this verb has the sense of praise, honor, exalt, magnify, revere, glorify.<sup>3</sup>

In my words: "God, Daddy, my dear *Abba*, you are holy; your name is holy; reveal yourself to us on earth as it is in heaven. Reveal to us who you are; reveal to us your personality, your name, your character."

We read in the Bible about God's name:

**O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. (Psalm 8:1 ESV)**

**Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**

**<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! (Psalm 113:1-3 ESV)**

**Who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, <sup>13</sup>who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.**

**<sup>14</sup>Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.**

**So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name. (Isaiah 63:12-14 ESV)**

Summary, *Abba* Father, Our father of our Lord Jesus Christ; come and make your name character real to this earth, come and may your name be glorified on earth as in heaven.

### **3. What is our response? (Application)**

1. How do you experience God's holy presence in your heart, in my marriage, in your sexual life, in your workplace, in your church...school, entertainment and you name the places you want to see God's name being honored.

Pray for a neighbor who needs to experience God's holy present. Pray for your children to experience God's holy presence. Pray for your workplace to experience God's holy presence.

Is God's holiness reflected in your...

No wonder Jesus started the prayer with this petition.

When we are asking God to be honored, sanctified, glorified, we are putting things in the right perspective.

2. In the Ten Commandments we read:

**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain** (Exodus 20:7  
ESV)

Question:

How we react when we hear God's named used "loosely" or "in vain" or "without meaning"?

Fro example: "oh my God!", "honest to God", "Jesus Christ!?" Or when your language is very "religious" yet your life is far from God's holiness.

Jesus prayed to his father:

**"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.**

**Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."** (John 17:6,11 ESV)

1 Darrell Johnson, 57 Words that Changed the World p 9

2 ibid p 25

3 ibid p20