

Our Father in Heaven

God has something very important that He wants us to know. The truths I want to talk about has to do with relationships.

Relationships are important to us – probably the most important in all of life. Father – mother – parent-child – husband-wife, etc. The value of house, car, money, are not even in the same area of thought. It takes a great deal of damage to give up one of these relationships. How different from value of a house or car.

Think of what it would mean if you had the best father and mother in all the world. Consider the good times around the dinner table, playing in the back yard, sports, being trained to live the right kind of life. I want to tell you that you can have the best Father in all the world.

I. Our Heavenly Father is Infinitely Great

See true picture of our Heavenly Father in the actions of Jesus Christ.

He came and provided a rescue for us – even though we rejected Him and still do.

He met the spiritual and some physical/social needs of the people when here.

He worked with people out of love – touched the leper – changed hearts.

Our Father has the right character.

He is infinitely holy – righteous – in all He does – so we can trust Him.

He is infinitely love – kindness – in all He does – so we can trust Him.

He is infinitely truth – faithful – in all He does – so we can trust Him.

He is infinitely powerful – always able to carry out His will – so we can trust Him.

We often have the wrong idea about God – judge Him on the basis of our circumstances, our feelings, and the problems of the world. Many people say “If He is so great, so holy, so loving – why do we have evil – and why do I have such a hard time in my daily life?”

The evil in the world is a divine revelation to us that our choices of error and sin are wrong choices – we see that in our own life and the life of others.

He wants to – and can – change the heart. Only He can do that – only He has the ability and the wisdom to do so. We change so slowly because we kick and scream when He tries to change something in our life.

He has initiated powerful truths to reverse error/sin and the world’s order. The will of God will win out – the Church will eventually win out – as it did in the Roman Empire.

II. Our Heavenly Father wants to be a “Father” to us.

One of the greatest truths of all time is that God wants us to know He seeks to be like Heavenly Father in our daily life. He is seeking to be involved in your life in a very personal and practical way. There is absolutely nothing more important – more valuable – more beneficial – and more satisfying – than to have a relationship in which we can say “My Father in Heaven.”

He came to give us what we really need –

We're created in the image of God – that's where our value lies. We are not basically physical, mental, emotional, volitional and social – we are **spirit**.

He works in our spirit – heart – if we allow Him to do so.

He wants to meet our greatest need – terrible danger we are in to error/sin/the world/ and the Devil. We are manipulated, controlled and in bondage more than we know.

The evidence that we are is how we often whine for Him to meet these temporary needs and then complain and even forsake Him when He doesn't come through the way we want Him to.

Often want wrong solutions – like a child – “Do my arithmetic for me,” and if we do – then it is “Do my algebra for me,” and if we do, then it's “buy a car for me,” then it's “Pay my rent for me.”

Many want Him to provide money and health and power. But if He did what would be the result? Result in greed, robbery, manipulation, revenge – as those who win the lottery. We would be exposed to a great deal of mistreatment and danger. Our children would be subject to kidnapping.

If God met all our physical, social and health needs now – when we got to Heaven we would be spiritual pygmies and out of place.

Prayer is not begging God for temporal help – it's communion with God in worship, thanksgiving and trusting Him to teach us His will so we can walk with Him and cooperate with Him in carrying out His plan.

Some cannot say “Father” because of past hurts – rejection – abandonment – not available – to them the word “father” triggers all kinds of bad conditioning. **I Remember Terror – I Remember You Father. “My father is a drunk!”**

There are many obstacles to calling God “Father” and relating to Him. The power and deception of error, of sin, of the world, and of Satan often stands in the way.

We judge Him and reject Him on basis of our emotions and worldly standards.

III. Our Heavenly Father has a Plan for Us.

He want to teach us His way (David – Psalm 86:11) His will – His plan and engage us in the way He is changing this world order. He is changing the world – one-by-one – and wants us to be involved in His work. **Consider the change and power that God can bring to pass through one person – D. L. Moody, Evan Roberts, John Wesley, A. B. Simpson, Mel Trotter – the person who won you to the Lord. Go back to the beginning of any Church – movement for good – and you'll usually find one or two people. We can fit into the plan of God in some way. Don't devalue yourself.**

Our life here is a training ground for future ministry in Heaven. This relates particularly to our priorities – desire for character transformation – and fellowship with our Father.

Our major problem is that we want our will more than His will. We are preoccupied with our day-by-day life and that crowds Him out.

Must take Matthew 6:33 at face value, “Seek first ... all these things will be added to you.”