

MATTHEW 6.9-15

THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME . . .

“Father, glorify Your name.”

JOHN 12.28

- ▶ In teaching his disciples how to pray, Jesus began with a name the Jews would never address to God: “Father”—which in Aramaic is “abba”. Our best translation would be “dearest daddy”. It is a term of deep affection and intimate relationship. In the Gospels, whenever we see Jesus speaking to or of his true Father, he is using this term, “Abba.” Jesus then prayed the first of three petitions related to a revealing of the Father: “hallowed be Your name.”

- ▶ The word “hallowed” comes from the Greek root word, *hagios*, which means to set apart, consecrate. *Glorify* means “to make conspicuous with dignity and majesty”. In Hebrew, the word *glory* signifies “weightiness”.
- ▶ In the Jewish world, one’s name was everything; it signified a person’s character, reputation, and distinctiveness. For the LORD God, the distinctiveness of His name was a very serious matter; at stake was a true revelation of His character and purposes. A false representation of Him diminished His glory, His weightiness, and misrepresented His character—and that meant judgment for those who did not rightly know Him.



What does the first petition mean?

Answer: “Hallowed be your name” means:

Help us to truly know You,

to honor, glorify, and praise You for all Your works

and for all that shines forth from them:

Your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth.

And it means,

Help us to direct all our living— what we think, say, and do—

so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us

but always honored and praised.

*“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,
for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.”*

EXODUS 20.7

“I am the LORD; that is My name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols.”

ISAIAH 42.8

- ▶ The LORD God repeatedly took deep offense with His people because they had profaned His holy name among the nations. They had not worshipped Him exclusively; they had disregarded His law which revealed His character, and they had not served the purpose for which He had chosen them when He called their father Abraham.

- ▶ Now Jesus has come to make the Father known—to reveal the Father’s heart of love for the world. This was the name, *Father*, with every implication of love and redemption that it represented, that Jesus prayed would be “hallowed”. It was this name, *Father*, that Jesus lived to honor, to set apart as distinct, and to make central.

“O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent me. I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

JOHN 17.25-26 ESV

- ▶ The Father's greatest desire is that the world would know His love. This was His singular purpose in sending His Son.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

JOHN 3.16

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 JOHN 4.7b-8

As the Father's dearly loved children, we are called to live out His heart as our central purpose and as our witness. May we not misrepresent His heart or misuse His name.