

One day a hungry beggar went to the house of a rich man. He asked for something to eat. The rich man invited the beggar in and gave him some soup. The beggar drank the soup very quickly.

When he finished the rich man asked, “Do you want more to eat?” “No, thanks,” the beggar answered. “That was enough. I’m full.”

But the rich man gave the beggar a large plate of meat. The beggar finished that very quickly also. “Do you want more to eat?” the rich man asked again. “No, thanks,” the beggar answered. “That was enough. I’m full.”

But the rich man didn’t stop. He gave the beggar some delicious chocolate cake. The beggar quickly finished the food again. “Why do you lie to me?” the rich man asked. “Every time I ask you if you want more to eat, you say no; but every time I give you more, you eat it quickly.”

The beggar looked around. Outside the kitchen there was a box. He filled the box with stones and asked the rich man, “Is this box full?” “Of course it’s full, the rich man answered.

Then the beggar put some sand in the box that was full of stones. “Is this box full?” he asked again. “Of course it’s full,” the rich man answered.

Then the beggar got a pail of water. He poured the water into the box that was full of stones and sand. “You see,” he said to the rich man. “Every time I ask you if the box is full, you say yes; but every time you say yes, I fill the box again. It’s the same thing with the food you gave me.

There’s always room for more.”

In **Genesis 2** God took the ground of the barren earth and formed man. He was complete, a functioning body, except for

one thing – the very thing that would make him full, the very thing that would make him alive. God breathed into the man the breath of God and the man was alive. The spirit of God filled him and made him full and complete.

There wasn’t room for anything else – Adam was full, Adam was complete and he was alive.

If you were there, I’m sure that as Adam became aware you would have seen that he somehow recognized his Father, God.

The breath of God that made him alive was part of God himself. Adam was sinless and in a perfect Father/Son relationship with God.

- This would not last!

When Adam took the fruit from Eve and ate it, he lost part of himself. A hole formed in his being. The connection to God was lost and I’m sure he knew it. He lost his Father.

Pray

When the disciples ask how they should communicate with the Father, Jesus had the perfect response. Address Him as your Father – the one who knows your deepest needs and is capable of doing something about them.

Matthew 6:8-15

*Don’t be like them, for **your** Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! 9 Pray like this:*

***Our** Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.*

*10 May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.*

11 Give us today the food we need,

*12 and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

*13 And don't let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.*

*14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, **your** heavenly
Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others,
your Father will not forgive your sins.*

The hole that was left in Adam and Eve's being and everyone who would follow them can only be filled by the Father in the form of Jesus the Christ.

Our soul longs for the restoration of the relationship with the Father that was lost in Adam. This loss, this God shaped hole, is felt by everyone that has ever lived and affects them in many different ways.

- For those of you who have had strained relationships with your father did you ever wonder why it affected you so deeply and for so long?
- Why did it touch every part of your life?
 - Your physical health, your emotional health, your mental health, your spiritual health.

Our relationship with our fathers was intended by God to be an example (albeit imperfect) of what our relationship with him

should be like. Imagine what your life could have been like if your earthly father's relationship was loving and healthy.

So, when Jesus told the disciples and us by extension to address God as "abba" or daddy it was to get them to pray in a way that was very personal and consider God as more than just this spiritual being out there who didn't really care.

If he's my father, then I'm praying with this in mind.

1. I have a Father who loves me (personally), a father I can trust and a father who will take care of me in all situations. We pray this way because God is not impersonal, aloof, and uncaring.
 - a. When we pray this way we must keep in mind that He is not the personal God to those outside of a relationship with His son Jesus Christ.
 - b. Also, keep in mind that scripture never promises that God will remove you from difficult circumstances. What it does promise is that God will see you through difficult circumstances so that you grow and mature while learning to trust him. That is what a good father does.
2. Whenever we hear his name or think about him it should go right to the core of our being. God's name should be special to you because it is "holy". We pray that his name be respected and not despised either by us or by others. We pray that our actions and thinking are always an example of how we respect God and his name.

3. When I pray like Jesus told me to I have confidence I have a home with our Father and it's not in this corrupted world.
4. Lastly that I would have confidence that God is in control and able to meet my needs. That being said what does it matter if someone wrongs me because my Father will take care of it.

Think about what kind of father Jesus is describing for us by telling us that this is how we should pray to him. Jesus is describing:

- A father that you can love and trust, who always cares.
- A father that when you hear his name, you are overwhelmed with respect and admiration.
- You have confidence that you will always have a home, a place with him (we lost this).
- A father who always has the answer; always in control and I can trust him.

Daughters look for this in their fathers, women look for this in their husbands.

Son's desire a father that is trustworthy and have the answers for life.

Both want a good example they can follow, a father that will give them the freedom to explore life and sometimes fail all the while being ready to catch them with open arms never turning their backs on them.

We want a Father that will stand firm on their principles and never be a hypocrite.

When God breath his spiritual breath into Adam he breathed this deep desire for this type of Father into all humanity.

We are built to look for the Father. We are made to desire everything that Jesus told us to pray about in the example he gave in Matthew.

When Jesus makes us aware and introduces us to the Father we stand back and see Him everywhere and in everything.

We recognize that He is the one we have been searching for all our lives.

And, so when we pray it's not about the procedures of prayer but its about acknowledging that God is the perfect father that all father should look to as an example.

Today is **Father's Day!** What better way to honor our Father in Heaven than to pray as a group to Him this morning?

- Lord's prayer on the back of the insert. KJV.

Without a relationship with the Son Jesus Christ you cannot have a relationship with the Father.

Make it a matter of prayer this week to Honor God by making it a priority to look to Jesus as your Lord – your authority, your example and the way you get to know your father.

Your heavenly Father can heal you of everything your flawed earthly father has done to you if you allow Him and it starts with Jesus Christ.