

"After this manner therefore pray ye: 'Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.' Matthew 6:9-10 KJV



Our Father is immense enough to fill the universe and beyond. *"Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me;' even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee."* God is also personal enough to feel the slightest touch of His vesture! *"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in ALL POINTS tempted (tried) like as we are, yet without sin."* If we carefully peruse the model for prayer that is recorded, we will find no "me's" or "I's" in it. It reinforces that I must include others in my prayers. God is desirous of our individual attention and delights in intimate communion with each of His children. *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints"* We must be ever mindful of the needs of our siblings in Christ and not forget that God is *"OUR Father."* When we present our individual petitions alongside of supplications for the saints it will accomplish a three-fold purpose. Remind us of the infinite capabilities of Our Father; Make us more compassionate towards the members of the Body of Christ; and shrink the scope and burden of our own infirmities. God is at once collectively, *"Our Father,"* and individually, *"Abba,"* (Hebrew for "Daddy") *"Is anything too hard for God?"* When we start to wrap our soul around the Truth that God is bigger than any problem, it will increase our faith and renew our spirit. He's the Creator. He can change the laws (His) of physics if necessary to help you! He made the sun stand still for a whole day for Joshua and Israel and turned back the sundial 15 degrees just to verify His Word to Hezekiah. In one case the earth stopped rotating and in the second it reversed direction! Impossible? *"With God ALL things are possible."* When we are hurt, we can run to "Daddy" and He'll be there for us. *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."* When we are needy, we may petition "Our Father" on the behalf of all. *"Casting ALL your care upon Him for He careth for you."* Praying "Our Father" removes selfishness from our lives and replaces it with selflessness, conforming us to the image of our Blessed Redeemer, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Remember, God is at once "Abba" to me and "OUR Father" to us.

Our Father who in heaven art,
Be pleased to us your grace impart,
Remind us Lord that ev'ry day,
We for our fellows ought to pray. ~CGP

"OUR Father" is bigger than any problem and "Abba" enough for any wounded saint! His momentary touch will heal the soul and gladden the heart. The brush of his garment will make completely whole. His presence will satisfy a vast multitude. Don't let the wall of doubt and despair keep you from the Bountiful Father!

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:16-17 KJV