CALLED TO BE Different

A Loving Father

Heritage Alliance Church
November 19, 2023
Pastor Shawn Hubert

THEME: A desire to have someone KNOW and someone to SEE

We long for a connection with our Heavenly Father
Our need to be known, to belong, and to be significant is available in the Kingdom of God by an authentic relationship with our Father in Heaven

God is our father
> *God is a good father, God is a trustworthy father, God is a faithful father, God is an aware father, God is a present father*

"Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!" Psalm 116:2

Jesus teaches us to pray to **"Our Father in heaven"** *vs 6:9*
Praying to your heavenly father distinguishes you as someone who trusts in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for you on the cross and believes in the Kingdom of Heaven.

"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children… heirs with Christ."
Romans 8:15-17

Praying "Our Father in heaven"
> *Acknowledges His authority (encourages obedience)*
> *Acknowledges His protection (we are secure) Romans 8:31-39*
> *Acknowledges our identity & belonging (we are significant)*
> *Acknowledges our rights & responsibilities (we are accountable)*

Jesus teaches us to pray "… your kingdom come, your will be done" *vs 6:10*
> *Invitation for God to do as He wants*
> *Commitment to obedience to His voice*

Jesus teaches us that our Father is good and gives good gifts *vs 7:11*

As a Heavenly Father, He sees, He knows, & He cares

Knowing God as our good Father will increase
> *Confidence in Prayer, Frequency of Prayer, & Authenticity in Prayer*

QUESTIONS: How does your experience with your earthly father impact your view of God as your Heavenly Father? How have you experienced God's "parental authority" in your life? How do you balance the concepts of intimacy and reverence that the word father implies? How would knowing God as your heavenly Father change your prayers?