

2018-03-06
Before Amen Part 1

Father You are Good

Prayer was never meant to be hard.

Prayer can be as simple as:

Father, you are good.

I need help.

They need help.

Thank you.

In Jesus' name, amen.

What does our Father, who is good, desire from us when we pray”?

1. Our Father, who is good, desires Intimacy

“Abba” is the Greek word for Daddy.

Matthew 6:9 Jesus teaches us to pray:

“Our Father in heaven”

And/or

“Our Daddy in heaven”

Jesus wants us to see that we are God’s children and he is our Daddy,
our Father, our Abba Father!

**For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,
but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba,
Father.**

Romans 8:15

**Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son
into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”**

Galatians 4:6

2. Our Father, who is good, Desires Honesty

- Simple and open-hearted requests grab God’s attention.
- There is no precise order in which to come before God.
- There is no magic formula that will turn on or turn off God’s listening ear.
 - ❖ God is not into fancy speech or perfect sentences.

Religious prayer recorded in scripture:

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. Luke 18:11-12

Jesus said, “do not be like them for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Matthew 6:5

- ✓ God rejects prideful prayers that are done for show.
- But in the quiet, unseen place, God hears, accepts and answers our honest prayers.

“Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”. Matthew 6:6

3. Our Father, who is good, Desires Openness

God loves the openness of a child.

Max asks in his book “How do children approach their dads”?

- ✓ A five-year-old spots his father in the parking lot and screams “Yippee”
- ✓ A freckle-faced girl shouts out “Ice Cream”

- ✓ A boy in a Boston Red Sox cap shouts out “Dad! Over here! Push me!”

Here is what Max did not hear from children:

- *Father, it is most gracious of thee to drive thy car to my place of education and provide me with domestic transportation.*
- *Please know of my deep gratitude for your benevolence. For thou art splendid in thy attentive care and diligent in thy dedication.*

When we come to the Lord in prayer he wants us to come to him just as we are – as his little children.

This week I invite you to join me as we begin this journey of prayer by connecting with God in a deeply profound, powerful and yet simple way.

Our prayer can be this simple:

Father, you are good.

I need help.

They need help.

Thank you.

In Jesus’ name, amen.