

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



The Names of God.

This side of Heaven, it is impossible for our finite human minds to fully comprehend God's infinite, holy, awe-inspiring nature. We can only know what God chooses to reveal about Himself. In Scripture He reveals Himself to us through His attributes and through His names. We considered God's attributes earlier this year, so now we begin a series on the names of God. This week leading up to Pentecost we will consider the names, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Father, Abba.

It is a stunning truth about God that He reveals Himself as a Father God. This self-identification of God stresses He is a God of loving care, compassion, provision, wisdom, discipline and warm, personal intimacy. Father is used of God in the OT 15 times, but in the NT it is used 245 times.

Through faith in Jesus Christ we are invited into the covenant family and into a covenant relationship with God as our Father. Jesus teaches us to pray to God as our Father. The Creator God of the universe loves us and relates to us as Father.

Jesus referred to God as Father in every address except on the cross when He cried out. He called God Father more than any other term. The Muslims have 99 names for Allah, but father is not one of them. They say that Allah is not a father and he has no son. They do not worship the same God we worship.

Reflections from Scripture on God as Father

Deuteronomy 32:6 *Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people?
Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?*

Psalms 89:26 *He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'*

Psalms 103:10-14 *He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

¹³ *As a father shows compassion to his children,*

so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

¹⁴ *For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

Isaiah 63:16 *For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.*

Isaiah 64:8 *But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

Matthew 6:9 *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."*

John 1:12-14 *To all who did receive him [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Romans 8:14-17 *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

Ephesians 3:14-16 *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family [literally, from whom all fatherhood] in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.*

Hebrews 12:7-11 *It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

I John 3:1 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

Children of The Heavenly Father

Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish,
In His holy love they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them,
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Lo, their very hairs He numbers,
And no daily care encumbers;
Them that share His ev'ry blessing
And His help in woes distressing.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers,
Your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender
Every foe-man must surrender.

("Children of the Heavenly Father", text by Carolina Sandell (1855), translated by Ernst W. Olson, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

Psalm 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Our Father and our God from whom all fatherhood gets its name, we pray and appeal to you that according to the riches of your glory and out of the great treasure store of your grace you would firmly ground us in your Word. Grant us a fresh vision of your glory that we might be drawn even more to your Fatherly love and affection. And grant us discernment and courage to resist every temptation to evil and every tendency to sin against you and your name.

Hear now your children as we pray and make our appeal to you on behalf of the great and many needs of our own souls, our families, our church, our state and our nation. Hear the cries of our hearts and our plea for mercy and grace, for faith and repentance.

We make our prayer and appeal to you who is able to do far more abundantly than we ask or imagine according to your power that is actively and effectively working in us. To you we give all glory in your Church and in Jesus Christ your Son now and forever. Amen.