

P581

GRACE NOTES PROGRAM

TITLE: THE LORD'S PRAYER – Our Father

SONG: WHO AM I 4:31

WHEN I CRY 4:20

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We've been studying Matthew, chapter 6:9-13 - the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray in order to better communicate with God. So far we've established that God requires a certain spiritual posture towards prayer - that of a humble and obedient spirit. This shouldn't be hard to do when we consider who God is and who we AREN'T. We're not just coming into the presence of 'A' King - which is humbling enough – we're entering the Throne room of 'THE' King of Kings, the One who MADE US! Even if we can't physically BOW in His presence, our hearts should be bowed. Our hands should be clean, and our words should be succinct, without repetition. God knows what we think and knows what we need even before we ask.

Though there are requirements for proper prayer, keep in mind, that as a Believer in Christ, we are free to come to God and bear our soul because **THOUGH He is our Maker and King, He is also our **FATHER**. Prayer is conversation between two people who love one another – between two hearts united in one through Christ.**

Before we begin our study, let's listen to a song about how awesome it is to be a child of the King of Kings.

***** **WRITERS: Casting Crowns**

***** WHO AM I *** TITLE: 4:31**

***Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name,
Would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wandering heart?***

***Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done.
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are.***

***I am a flower quickly fading,
Here today and gone tomorrow.
A wave tossed in the ocean.***

*A vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.
And You've told me who I am.
I am Yours, I am Yours.*

*Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love and watch me rise again?
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me?*

*Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done.
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are.*

*I am a flower quickly fading,
Here today and gone tomorrow.
A wave tossed in the ocean.
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Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.
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*I am a flower quickly fading,
Here today and gone tomorrow.
A wave tossed in the ocean.
A vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.
And You've told me who I am.
I am Yours, I am Yours, I am Yours.*

*Whom shall I fear?
Whom shall I fear?
'Cause I am Yours, I am Yours.*

Titles are very important in our society. If you've earned a degree, you can legally add a prefix and/or suffix to your given name. This shows respect for your position. Isn't it ironic, though, that when Jesus instructed His disciples about the proper way to approach Almighty God, He didn't say to address Him as the Great Unknown or to use all the titles attributed to Him. He simply said to call Him, 'Father'. Listen to His words in verse 9...

In this manner, therefore, pray: “Our FATHER...”

We are taught here to pray to God only, not to saints and angels. They are ignorant of us. They can't give us what we ask for, and should not have the high honors we give in prayer.

Notice, that the prayer starts with ‘Our’ father rather than ‘Dear’ father, the way we’d begin a letter. ‘Our’ makes the conversation with God more intimate and direct. Also, ‘Our’ is used rather than ‘My’ because we are to pray individually as though we were praying collectively, with and for our whole family. We are THE body of Christ – not MANY bodies. That’s why unity is so important among Believers. We are members one of another, and are called into fellowship with each other and God.

Matthew 18:20 says that where two or more are gathered in His Name He will be in the middle of them, directing, assisting, confirming, and blessing all they are engaged in.

Now, that’s real family time!

There’s nothing more pleasing to God, nor pleasant to us, than to call Him *Father*.

With God as our Father, what else can we expect from Him?

Psalm 103:13-14 says...

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust.

He will listen and spare us - according to Malachi 3:16-17...

....those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his Name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him."

Luke 11:11-13 helps us to understand the superiority of God as our Father as compared with our human fathers. It reads...

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a

**snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?
If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy
Spirit to those who ask him!"**

**The gift of the Holy Spirit that God places inside us when we receive
Christ as Savior, ensures us that we are God's child and gives us the
right to address Him with holy boldness. The Holy Spirit also helps us
understand God's words and translates our inmost feelings into words,
even when we don't know what to say.**

What a privilege we have – do we know this?

**As parents, we've come to understand more of what God goes through
raising godly children. I remember one particular incident when one of
our sons got involved with a wrong crowd and came home quite
inebriated. We helped him to his bed and just sat on the floor and cried
with him as he begged for forgiveness and prayed he wouldn't die.**

**Isaiah 53 says that Jesus was a man of sorrow and acquainted with
grief. He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.**

**So let us come to God, not as subjects to 'the Master of the Universe'
but as children to the best of fathers, simply sharing His concerns and
confidently telling him of our needs.**

And know that when we cry – He cries with us.

******* WRITER: Benjamin Gaither & Marshall Hall
** WHEN I CRY ** LENGTH: 4:20

***Makin' a list of all of the good things You've done for me
Lord, I've never been one to complain
But right now I'm lost and I can't find my way
My world's come apart and it's breakin' my heart
But it helps to know Your heart is breakin' too***

***When I cry, You cry
When I hurt, You hurt
When I've lost someone
It takes a piece of You, too***

*And when I fall on my face
You fill me with grace
'Cause nothin' breaks Your heart
Or tears You apart
Like when I cry*

*Alone in the dark, face in my hands, crying out to You
Lord, there's never been a time in my life
There's so much at stake, there's so much to lose
But I trust it to You
You'll bring me through
And it helps me to know that I'm not alone*

*When I cry, You cry
When I hurt, You hurt
When I've lost someone
It takes a piece of You, too
And when I fall on my face
You fill me with grace
'Cause nothin' breaks Your heart
Or tears You apart
Like when I cry*

*You're the one who calmed the raging sea 
You're the one who made the blind to see
You looked through all of heaven and eternity
And through it all you saw me...*

*When I cry, You cry
When I hurt, You hurt
And when I've lost someone it takes a piece of You, too
When I fall on my face, You fill me with grace
Nothing breaks your heart, or tears you apart
Like when I cry*

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