



“Abba, Father”

Jesus in Gethsemane on the night he was betrayed prayed, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” (Mark 14:36)

In the Old Testament God was Father to the Jewish nation, but Jesus in the New Testament shows God as Father of individual Christians. Now we all can pray, “Our Father”.

Christians are children of God, but Jesus is uniquely the Son of God. In Jesus’s prayer in Gethsemane, he addressed God as “Abba”, which is followed by the word “Father”. Abba is a child’s word expressing absolute trust and close intimacy. It is like our “Daddy” or an infant’s “Dada” as he or she first begins to learn to talk. Through Jesus, we who are all in Christ are invited to this level of intimacy with God because we are sons. “And because you are sons, God has sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” (Galatians 4:6-7)

“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!’” (Romans 8:15.)

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

Because He is “Abba” we may come boldly to the throne of his grace. This special gift of prayer should never be ignored or taken lightly. God awaits our prayers of thanksgiving and requests for guidance.

--Bailey Howell