

**Title:** God is Mighty

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:9

**Main Idea:** What God's fatherly love directs, his power is able to perform!

**Intro:**

Over the last two weeks, we have been looking at the introductory salutation to our model prayer. And we have said that the overall principle guiding our understanding of our prayers is that our prayers reflect the God of our prayers - The prayers of God's people reflect the God of their prayers.

We have considered that Prayer begins with God's position and we have unpacked that position over the past couple of weeks.

- The First position – we saw that **God is Near** – He is close. This plural personal pronoun “our” had three implications: personal, corporate, and exclusive [expand on each briefly].
- The second position last week – **God is Concerned**. As our Father, He is concerned about our physical needs... He is concerned about that we walk in wisdom... He is concerned about our spiritual needs...

This week, we come to the next description of God as Father – He is not just any Father, but our Father. Also, He is not just any Father, but He is our Father in heaven. ***What does the fact that God is our heavenly Father mean to us, specifically as it relates to prayer?***

The family imagery speaks of the intimacy of the disciples' relationship to God, but the qualifier "in heaven" reminds one that God is not a pal [homeboy, dude, bro, ...]. Rather, this God is the awesome God of heaven who has come near in the person of his beloved Son and counts disciples of the kingdom as his dear family (cf. 12:46-50; Isa. 57:15). God is "our Father in heaven" because God has come near to his children by his grace, establishing a covenant relationship of intimacy and community. Yet God is at the same time "our Father in heaven"; he remains distant from his children because of his glory, which leads his disciples to approach him with awe. Turner, ECNT

*Ecc 5:1-2 <sup>1</sup>Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Better to approach in obedience than to offer the sacrifice as fools do, for they ignorantly do wrong. <sup>2</sup>Do not be hasty to speak, and do not be impulsive to make a speech before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few*

**What does it mean that God is our Father “in heaven”?**

It means He is not of this created realm. It is not about his location nearly as much as it is about his being. He is outside of creation. He is outside of time. He is outside of any physical or external limits. He is active in creation, but not limited by creation. He is active

in time but not limited by time. He is active in the physical realm but in no way limited by anything or anyone acting externally upon him.

**God is mighty. Four ways we see his might:**

1. He is infinite in wisdom
2. He is perfect in character – transcendent; other; holy
3. He is sovereign in rule
4. He is powerful in deed

**1. Infinite in Wisdom**

- God is not bound by what He has learned nor by what He does not know
- All wisdom begins with God – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- Not only do we not know what God knows, we can't even begin to grasp the gap between our knowledge and his
- ILL: islands being the tip top of mountains anchored to the ocean floors

**2. Perfect in Character**

- God's actions flow out of his character
- His actions are always perfect because He is perfect
- This means answers to our prayers are perfect because they are perfect responses that flow out of perfect character
- We looked last week at Matt 7:11 – if we being far from perfect desire to do good things for our children how much more our perfect Father

**3. Sovereign in Rule**

- God is at work sovereignly supervising all that takes place at all levels
- This is true of us individually
- This is true of nations and peoples
- *Ps 24:7-10 - <sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates!*

*Rise up, ancient doors!*

*Then the King of glory will come in.*

*<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory?*

*The LORD, strong and mighty,*

*the LORD, mighty in battle.*

*<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates!*

*Rise up, ancient doors!*

*Then the King of glory will come in.*

*<sup>10</sup>Who is he, this King of glory?*

*The LORD of Armies,*

*he is the King of glory.*

**4. Powerful in Deed**

- God's power is demonstrated in many ways

### 03.01.26: Kingdom Prayer: God is Mighty

- God's power is demonstrated in Creation
- God's power is demonstrated in History
  - Acts 13 – Paul's sermon (and Stephen's in Acts 7)
  - Isaiah and the "strong arm of the Lord" his "might right hand"
- God's power is demonstrated in his demonstrations of glory
  - Elijah on Mt Carmel
  - Miracles of Jesus
- God's power is demonstrated in his interventions on behalf of his people
  - Exodus
  - Joshua
  - Judges
  - On and on
- God's power is demonstrated in Salvation!

#### Job 38

When we pray to our father in heaven, we approach, speak with, and appeal to this God!

#### Concl:

John Stott – “[God] combines fatherly love with heavenly power, and what his love directs his power is able to perform. In telling us to address God as 'our Father in heaven, the concern of Jesus is not with protocol (teaching us the correct etiquette in approaching the Deity) but with truth (that we may come to him in the right frame of mind). ***It is always wise, before we pray, to spend time deliberately recalling who he is. Only then shall we come to our loving Father in heaven with appropriate humility, devotion and confidence.***”

You may say, well Pastor, I've never seen any of this.

- Have you not taken a walk outside lately?
- Life and new born baby
- I've seen marriages brought back from the precipice
- I've seen addicts set free
- I've seen enemies become friends
- I've seen sin forgiven.
- I've encountered a crucified and resurrected Savior.

God has demonstrated all of this and so much more. Won't you call out to him today – Our close, concerned, and mighty Father