

Knowing God as “Our Father”

Matt 6:5-15

God in the OT

- The revelation to the believer that God is his Father is in a sense the climax of the bible.
- In the OT, God gave His people the covenant name by which to speak of Him and call upon Him: the name **Yahweh (Jehovah or Lord)**. God announced Himself as the “great I AM” – the one who is completely and consistently Himself.
- The entire name of God in the OT depicted God’s separateness or His Holiness, purity, greatness and the need to fear Him. Again and again it was stressed that we must that we must keep our place, and our distance, in the presence of a holy God. This emphasis overshadowed everything else.

In the NT, “Father” has now
become the covenant name of
God.

Christians are His children – His sons and daughters, His
heirs... God is approachable in the NT Eph 3:12; Heb 10:19-22

***“Father” is
the
Christian
name for
God...***

- A unique New Testament revelation is that through faith in Christ, God becomes our personal Father. Father is used of God in the Old Testament only **15** times while it is used of God **245** times in the New Testament. As a name of God, it stresses God's loving care, provision, discipline, and the way we are to address God in prayer (**Matt 6:9; 7:11; Jam. 1:17; Heb. 12:5-11; John 15:16; 16:23; Eph. 2:18; 3:15; 1 Thess. 3:11**).

ABBA: "Papa"

- **Mark 14:36; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:6; Eph 1:3-14** – First spoken by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion, "Abba" indicates an intimacy with God as that of a child to his/her father. When we come to Christ in faith, we receive the "Spirit of sonship" or adoption and can then approach God as our loving, forgiving father. Abba" is the Aramaic word meaning "*Daddy*" or "*Father.*" It's a term of warm affection, intimacy, and respect for one's father.

What is a Christian?

- A Christian is one who has God as Father. We are all not sons of God or it's not everyone who can sincerely call God father.
- Sonship to God is not a universal status into which everyone enters by natural birth, but by a supernatural gift which one receives through receiving Christ Jesus. John 14:6; 1:12-13
- Sonship to God is a gift of grace – it is “adoptive sonship” Gal 4:4-5; Eph 1:5; I John 3:1-2

What does sonship
or fatherhood
imply?

