

God as our Father

Matthew 6:5 (ESV)

Matt 6:5 Jesus said to pray this way “Our Father..”

Fathers...

- **Poverty** - Children in father-absent homes are five times more likely to be poor.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March

- **Drug and Alcohol Abuse** - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states, "Fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse."

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics. Survey on Child Health. Washington, DC, 1993.

- **Educational Achievement** - Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics. Survey on Child Health. Washington, DC; GPO, 1993.

Matthew 1:18-21 (ESV)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:22-25 (ESV)

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 2:13-15 (ESV)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 2:19-23 (ESV)

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Joseph...

- Married pregnant Mary at the prompting of an angel
- Named the baby Jesus at the prompting of an angel
- Took the family and fled to Egypt prompting of an angel
- Took the family and returned to Israel prompting of an angel
- Settled the family in Nazareth
- Provided for the family as a Carpenter
- Gave that occupation to His son, Jesus

Couldn't Mary just have
been a single mom?

ROMANS 8:12-17

Point : 1

NOT EVERYONE IS A CHILD OF GOD

Romans 8:12 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

John 1:12 (ESV)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

1 John 3:1 (ESV)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Point : 2

**BEING CHILDREN OF GOD MEANS INTIMACY WITH
GOD**

Romans 8:12 (ESV)

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!”

Galatians 4:6 (NIV)

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

(Mat 6:33 ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Point : 3

IF YOU ARE CHILDREN OF GOD **sons** YOU
HAVE SPECIAL PRIVELGES

Romans 8:16 (ESV)

*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,*

Ephesians 5:1 (ESV)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children

Hebrews 12:7-8 (ESV)

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? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Point : 4

IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST YOU ARE AN HEIR

Romans 8:17a (ESV)

and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

Revelation 21:7 (NIV)

(Rev 21:7 NIV) He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV)

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Point : 5

**WE ALSO PARTAKE IN HIS SUFFERING
AND GLORY**

Romans 8:17b (ESV)

provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

John 16:33 (ESV)

*“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (ESV)

**Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—
I am talking like a madman—**

- **with far greater labors,**
- **far more imprisonments,**
- **with countless beatings, and**
- **often near death.**
- **Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.**
- **Three times I was beaten with rods.**
- **Once I was stoned.**
- **Three times I was shipwrecked;**
- **a night and a day I was adrift at sea;**

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (ESV)

- on frequent journeys,
- in danger from rivers,
- danger from robbers,
- danger from my own people,
- danger from Gentiles,
- danger in the city,
- danger in the wilderness,
- danger at sea,
- danger from false brothers;

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (ESV)

- in toil and hardship,
- through many a sleepless night,
- in hunger and thirst,
- often without food,
- in cold and exposure.
- And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

2 Cor 4:17 (ESV)

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

In summary...

- **Not everyone is a child of God**
- **Children have access to their father**
- **Children have special privileges**
- **Children have an inheritance**
- **Children get to share in suffering and glory**

Conclusion