

The Prayer of Connection

Series: Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer

May 17, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

The seven different phrases in the Lord's Prayer are an answer to the seven greatest stresses in our lives.

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) "This is how you should pray: Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

When Jesus called God by the name 'Father' he was making clear that God is a person, not just a power.

WE CAN CONNECT WITH GOD BECAUSE...

1. HE IS A CARING FATHER

Psalm 103:13 (NIV) As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

I Peter 5:7 (NIV) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Anything that's worth worrying about is worth giving to God.

2. HE IS A CONSISTENT FATHER

James 1:17 (NIV) Every good and perfect gift...is from the Father...who does not change like shifting shadows.

II Timothy 2:13 (NIV) If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

In times of rapid change people need islands of stability.

Romans 11:29 (LB) ...God will never go back on his promises.

3. HE IS A CLOSE FATHER

Acts 17:27 (NIV) God did this so people would...reach out for him and find him, since he is not far from each of us.

A. God is never too busy for me

Psalm 145:18 (NIV) The Lord is near to all who call on him...

B. God loves to meet my needs

Matthew 7:11 (NIV) “If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

C. God is sympathetic to my hurts

Psalm 34:18 (NIV) The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

4. HE IS A COMPETENT FATHER

Luke 1:37 (NIV) “For nothing is impossible with God.”

Ephesians 3:20 (LB) Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—ininitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.

CONCLUSION:

God loves everybody and wants everybody in his family. So God sent Jesus to make that connection possible.

I Timothy 2:5,6 (LB) God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind.

Galatians 3:26 (LB) For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.