



Our Father
Matt 6.9-13 (ESV)

*“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

The Point: God is our eternal Father—his will is perfect and holy; he loves and nurtures his erring children.

The Question: What is a grove?

Our Father gives us all we need to survive.

Our Father expects us to seek and do his will.

Our Father feeds and forgives us.

Our Father guides and gives us opportunities to glorify him.

Our Father (June 20, 2021 #822)

All of us have fathers, some good, some absent in emotion or presence. I was blessed to have a good and present father, who had a good and present father. I am eternally blessed by knowing the LORD as Father.

I picked the title and the text two weeks before we left for vacation. I knew it would be Father’s Day and thought it would be good to look at a well-known prayer given to the church by Jesus. It starts, “Our Father” and shows his eternal location, “heaven.” Three things all humanity has in common; a mother, a father, and a God who created all.

When we open the prayer, we proclaim God’s fatherhood and his unique and holy nature. Pause when you breathe or think the words. Jesus gave the prayer as a plural, may pray it in the singular—I occasionally do. It is a model prayer filled with reminders that we are beholding to a singular and eternal father. Pausing at the Grand Canyon three weeks ago, I marveled at God’s creation and the different thoughts on how he created all before my sight out of nothing. God made my body, soul, and spirit by his hand—the body by the matter he made in the six days of creation and spirit and soul forming in my mother’s womb. He gives us all we need to survive and thrive physically and spiritually. He created us spiritually eternal beings.

As our father, he expects us to seek, understand and complete his will for us. I take that to mean to play the hand you are dealt and see the opportunities set before your eyes and feet. He asks no more than what he has given.

He feeds us three ways, through the bread of life, the bread of his word, and the bread of doing his will—a well-balanced meal to give weight to the soul and stature to the spirit. Our debt of sin to him? He forgives us by a particular element, the blood of Jesus. Debts others owe us? He expects us to forgive them with unconditional love.

What is the purpose of the Grove? What is the purpose of any grove? A place of producing fruit and giving shade and rest to pilgrims on their way to Mt. Zion. From this place, we glorify our Father.