

# GOD, OUR FATHER

## WHAT IF...?

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*We believe in God the Father, the first person of the Trinity. He transcends human description and natural laws because He is greater than them. (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 3:14; Ex. 34:6,7; John 5:19-23)*

### WHO IS GOD?

God created you and the universe you live in. He transcends human description and all natural laws because He is greater than them. God gives us a glimpse of Himself in Exodus 34:6,7 as:

The LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished.

He exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who are one in essence. God is one, yet three distinct persons who play different roles in our lives. As high, mighty, and infinite as He is, God cares about every detail of your life. He is not aloof and knows you better than you know yourself. He also longs for a close relationship with you.

### HOW CAN YOU KNOW GOD IF HE IS SO GREAT?

Knowing God must be approached from two angles: intellectual and experiential. Both of these must be used or the result will be a dysfunctional knowledge of God.

- Intellectual: God transcends human description. However, He has certain characteristics, or traits, that He has revealed to us; referred to as attributes. These are not “parts” of God, but they do help us understand His personality. Think of these attributes as facets on a beautiful diamond. Each attribute is unique, but works with the others to reflect God’s majestic glory and beauty.
- Experiential: We must get acquainted with God as we would anyone else; by spending time with Him. Daily we should commune with Him through Scripture, prayer, and fellowship with believers. Develop a close walk with Him. Get to know Him as your heavenly Father.

### WHY SHOULD YOU KNOW GOD?

- To see life from God’s perspective.
- To develop personal holiness.
- You will know what to imitate if you know what He is like.
- To trust God more
- To “set your mind on things above.”
- To worship God for who He truly is – anything else is idolatry.
- Jehovah is NOT Allah

*RECOMMENDED READING*  
*The Knowledge of the Holy, AW Tozer*  
*Knowing God, JI Packer*

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**OUR FATHER** – No other “god” was a father (Tom Wright, The Lord & His Prayer)

Father = πατήρ (*pater*) → **Tension between God’s immanence and transcendence**

Adoption as sons **We’re brothers of Jesus! (Heb 2:11)**

You sum up the whole of the NT teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator. In the same way, you sum up the whole of the NT religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one’s holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all...Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption.

--JI Packer, Knowing God, p. 182.

### IN HEAVEN

*Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.* Ecclesiastes 5:2 (NIV)

*"Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"* Job 38:2 (NIV)

### “HALLOWED IS YOUR NAME”

- **Isaiah fell apart when faced with God’s holiness (Is 6)**
- **We need to act like our surname (i.e. be holy)**

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed is your name*

We must have an accurate and balanced understanding of God – Father and “in heaven”

**Excesses of any one view lead to distortions; Imbalanced perspective leads to idolatry**

### Monday morning...so what?

**Dealing with life’s problems:** **The bigger my view of God, the smaller my problems become**

**Sons, not orphans:**

- **Think of God anticipating your salvation! {Eph 1:4,5}; There are no “accidents” in adoption**
- **The adopted son was adopted permanently. He was eternally secure as a son.**
- **The adopted son immediately had all the rights of a legitimate son in the new family.**
- **The adopted son completely lost all rights in his old family. The adopted son was looked upon as a new person—so new that old debts and obligations connected with his former family were cancelled and abolished as if they never existed.**

**Inheritance:** **Our main focus should be the age to come, not this present age**

**Provision:** **Matthew 6:31,32**

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.* Romans 8:15-16 (NIV)