

Worshiping God through Prayer

Read [Genesis 3:1–24](#)

Jesus' plan for knowing God through prayer starts with worship.

Let's answer three questions about worshiping God through prayer:

- 1) What does it mean to worship?
- 2) How do I worship God through prayer?
- 3) What will it do for me?

1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORSHIP?

Worship, simply put, is the act of acknowledging God's worth. Our modern English word "**worship**" was originally the Old English word "**worthship**." It means to express **worth**. Because God's worth is eternal, our worship of Him will never end.

Jesus said there are two aspects of God's worth that we should acknowledge as we begin our prayer with worship. **The first is God's Fatherhood.** Jesus told us to start our prayer with the words, "***Our Father in heaven***" (emphasis added). We are worshiping God when we acknowledge Him as our Heavenly Father.

Do you trust God as your Father? You should if you're a Christian, because [Galatians 3:26](#) says, "***You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.***" If you're a believer in Jesus, you are a son or daughter of God. He's your very own Father! And He wants you to trust in Him as the loving Father He is. That's a part of worshiping Him.

Listen to this testimony from a good pastor friend of mine: "Our church had a party for nursery workers at a local park one Saturday afternoon. I was sitting on the grass watching the children play on the monkey bars. One little toddler named Mia was having a great time. She would hang onto the crossbars with all her might, her face turning red, the ground a couple or three feet beneath her—a *long* way to someone her size. She would hang there as long as she could, then let go and squeal with delight as her dad and grandpa and mom took turns catching her. Then she wanted to do it again.

And again.

And again.

Here's what caught my attention. Her dad and grandpa and mom were standing *behind* little Mia. She couldn't see them as she let go and fell through the air. But she never doubted that they would catch her. That was the fun of it. She was letting go. She was falling through the air. But she knew someone bigger and stronger than her was going to catch her."

That's how our Heavenly Father wants us to trust Him when it comes to life. He wants us to let go—let go of our burdens and fears and worries—and trust Him to catch us safely. That's worship to Him. It's acknowledging His worth as Our Father.

Another aspect of God's worth that we should acknowledge as we begin our prayer with worship is his holiness. Jesus told us to pray, "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name*" (emphasis added). To hallow something means to *set it apart as deserving special honor*, as when President Abraham Lincoln spoke of the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. To hallow God's name, then, is to set it apart as holy—above all other names.

Yes, we should trust God as our loving Heavenly Father, but we should always keep in mind that He is Almighty God, too.

There's an amazing scene in the Book of Revelation that describes "*four living creatures*" who worship God in heaven at His throne. These are unique creatures, "*covered with eyes all around.*" Each one has eyes "*in front and in back*" and "*even under his wings.*"

And the Bible says:

"Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

[REVELATION 4:6-8](#)

Here's what I want you to notice. Though these creatures never leave God's throne (that is, they are close to Him at all times), and though they have eyes all over (that is, they see *everything*), they never stop declaring how holy—how morally perfect and pure and good—He is! Amazing.

We should trust God as our loving Heavenly Father, but we should acknowledge His holiness as well—realizing that it is only because of His mercy that we are able to approach Him. Keeping both these truths in mind—God's love and His holiness—keeps us balanced.

The story is told of some mountain climbers in the Alps. Two were experienced. One was making his first climb in the Alps. They climbed and climbed, up the rock and snow. When they reached the summit, the two experienced climbers moved aside to let their friend go first. The young man ascended the summit and was about to jump to his feet—when his two friends pulled him down! When he asked them what they were doing, one of them said, "Hold your hand up." He did and felt a powerful gust of wind. "Up here," the experienced climber explained, "the only safe place is on your knees."

It is the same with God. We should trust him as our loving Heavenly Father, but we should also show him reverence and awe as the Most High. We are worshiping when we acknowledge His holiness.

So we've answered the first question about worshiping God through prayer, *What does it mean to worship?* It means to acknowledge God's worth, specifically His worth as our Heavenly Father and His worth as our holy God.