

HC 119-121 – A Willing and Able Father!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: We've all had some experience with fathers who don't care for their children. They have no time for their children and abandon them. They were able, but they were not willing.

On the other hand, I had to deal with a husband whose wife was having a miscarriage. It was extremely difficult for him. He wanted to do anything to save his baby, but could not. He would have paid anyone who could save the child's life, but none could help. He was willing, but he wasn't able to save his baby.

Not so with your Heavenly Father. He is both **willing and able** to do everything good for his child. **This is the message today.**

Our headings are:

A Willing Father

An Able Father

Our goals are: That **knowing you have a willing and able Father who adopted you through Jesus, you will pour out your prayers daily to him to provide for what you need in order to do all your duties.**

A Willing Father

119 Q. WHAT IS THIS PRAYER?

A. **Our Father who art in heaven**, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy 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. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

120 Q. WHY DID CHRIST COMMAND US TO CALL GOD "OUR FATHER"?

A. At the very beginning of our prayer Christ wants to kindle in us what is basic to our prayer– the **childlike awe and trust that God through Christ has become our Father.** Our fathers do not refuse us the things of this life; God **our Father will even less refuse to give us what we ask in faith.**

1. Notice how prayer can be done using simple, clear words, without any complex sentences.

No English is even required. Good grammar is not required. Even speech is not

required. God speaks Korean, Filipino, Bulgarian, Afrikaans, Tamil, Cantonese, Igbo, and Mandarin. **God understands all accents, dialects, and thoughts.**

2. Your prayer is directed to the Father of all believers.

Luke 11:11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**"

Your heavenly Father willingly cares for his children. He wants his children to come to him! You are his adopted sons.

You can talk to him like a son or daughter talks to his or her father: with confidence and expectation, not with fear.

God is now in a clear relationship with you – a covenant relationship – a special relationship...a loving relationship.

Romans 8: 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, **but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

There are some who argue for the "Fatherhood of God to all men." That is true in a general sense – that all men get their existence from God - but **God is not the covenant God of all men.**

God is the covenant God of all whom he redeemed with the blood of his own Son.

3. Your prayer is directed to God your personal Father.

This shows a personal relationship between you and God. This is why the Psalmist often said: "*My Lord...my God.*" Look how God confirmed this to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 3: ...And I said: 'You shall call Me, "My Father," And not turn away from Me.'

4. While you have a personal relationship with your Father and could say "my Father," Jesus taught you to say: "Our" Father.

"Our" Father in heaven to **guard against self-righteousness** or arrogance, thinking you are so special to the exclusion of others.

You have and share and pray to the same heavenly Father with millions of other Canadian Christians and worldwide Christians.

And you pray for each other – though you may fight with each other from time to time.

5. There are a few more implications now that God is your personal and willing Father:

a. You must implicitly love and trust him. You tell him everything that has happened to you – even the most intimate and embarrassing details you might not tell a husband or a wife. You will not be ashamed to ask God for things you need.

He never laughs at you. He will be understanding – even when you ask for foolish things. He will never abandon you nor put you out of his house. You are his child forever.

b. You will not direct your prayers to anyone else. You are not to direct your prayers to dead saints, or living saints, as Roman Catholics argue. Doing this is a great insult to God and it is **insulting to the saints to whom you may pray.**

c. Why would anyone pray to a dead person when he has a living God willing to help? But more than willing, he is able!

An Able Father

121 Q. WHY THE WORDS, "WHO ART IN HEAVEN"?

A. These words teach us not to think of **God's heavenly majesty** as something earthly, and to **expect everything for body and soul from his almighty power.**

1. Since your Father is in heaven, the true and living God, you know he has the ability to do for you everything you need and give you everything you need.

Your Father guarantees you (and other believers) a full **inheritance in the future.**

Your Father promises to give you (and other believers) **everything you need in this life to do his will**, whatever his will is – regardless how hard it is.

(So prayer is ultimately about doing God's work!)

2. You wouldn't have too much hope if a relative says you are in his will but he was living on the street in a cardboard house, would you?

He might **be willing**, but you realize he might **not be able** to leave you an inheritance.

Even if you had an inheritance to leave for your children's future, you still have limitations. You could lose everything. The stock market could crash. Thieves and the government could steal it.

Your Father guarantees an eternal inheritance waiting for you in heaven.

3. What about tools to do your Father's work now?

Western leaders have tried to get peace in the Middle East! Even President Trump, who thought he could do it, failed! He couldn't get others to work with him. He didn't have the tools!

But your Father in heaven gives you the tools you need to do the work he has called you to do.

4. Why can you have confidence your Heavenly Father will give you an inheritance and the tools you need to do the work he has called you to do?

Look at your Father's power, love, and wisdom!

Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 **"So why do you worry about clothing?** Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32

"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. **For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

God's promise is declared in beautiful pictures for you in Luke 11. If dumb and impoverished earthly fathers give good gifts to their children, how much more won't your **holy, heavenly, willing and able Father give good gifts to his children?**

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

5. What then are the implication of having a heavenly Father is who is able to do all good things for you?

a. Since you have an able Father in heaven, respect him in your daily lives and do not treat him with "pedestrian familiarity" -as an ordinary man.

God is your Father, not your grandfather.

Acts 17: 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Temples could not contain God – the God who made every living thing in the earth... He determined when and how everything would live and be limited. Heaven could not contain him.

So treat him with the highest honor possible. Look again:

Jeremiah 23: 23 "Am **I a God near at hand,**" says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? 24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "**Do I not fill heaven and earth?**" ...

God is powerful and able, filling heaven and earth and **yet he is near – close by.** This means nothing is out of his Divine sight or control.

b. Since your Father is in heaven and able to do all good thing for you, honor him.

Maybe you heard of the girl who sued her parents to provide for her private high school education and personal lifestyle after she moved out of their home and oversight. She lost. She thought her parents existed solely for her benefit and did not do what her parents wanted. She didn't honor them, so they ignored her demands. Neither will God provide for you if you don't honor him.

c. Since your Father is in heaven and able to do all good things for you, worship him in the way he has commanded.

Conclusion:

God is your Father because you were adopted in Jesus. God only adopts children through Jesus. **As your Father, he is willing to do what is good for you and he has the ability to give you what you need to do the work he has assigned for you.** He is the one and only true God of heaven and of earth. He is not some weak God made of stone. All other gods are devilish decoys. Only Yahweh God is willing able to do what he has promised.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Don't worry about anything. God is willing and able to give and do everything you need. (Worry is for people with no – or no good- fathers and no inheritance.)

2. Pray. Direct your prayer to God. You have right of access any time of the day with boldness and confidence. Pour out your needs to him. This is how he will give you the things you need!

3. Pray perseveringly. No saint of God has ever regretted praying too much. Saints always regret praying too little. (I hope this is not you.) Some don't get because they give up too soon! God wants you to persevere in prayer.

Finally, to those who don't believe in Jesus Christ: 1John 3:1 says: "*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God...*" What astounding love-God's love-in sending Christ to die for our sins-which then gives full access to God. Do you want to receive this love from God? Why not ask him to show you his love. I have it. You need it.