

HC 119-121 – A Father who is willing and able to meet your every need!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Deacon Max might be willing and able to pay for a beautiful wedding for his daughter, maybe buy a beautiful dress, have a wonderful meal, and even buy lovely flowers, but there is a limit as to what he is able to do for his daughter. (And even doing these things is limited by what God has given to him.) **But Deacon Max cannot give Teresa peace in her heart or peace in her home.** He might be willing but he is not able to do this.

But what a difference in Teresa's **heavenly Father!** He is both **willing and able** to do everything good for her so that she might do the work he has called her to do. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

A Willing Father

An Able Father

Our goals are: That **knowing you have a willing and able Father who adopted (收养) you** through Jesus Christ, **you will pour out your prayers daily to him.**

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 (试探), 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 (敬畏) 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 words and clear speaking.

There are no complex sentences in the Lord's Prayer. No English is even required. Good grammar (语法) is not required. Even speech is not required. God speaks Spanish, Korean, Cantonese, and Mandarin. **God understands all accents (口音), dialects (方言), 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 (蝎子)? 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 cares for his children. He is willing to take care of his children. He wants his children to come to him!

You are his adopted son or daughter. 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 (约) relationship – a special 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 (窑土), and You our potter (窑匠); 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 whom he redeemed (救赎) with the blood of his own.** If you have no grace through Christ, you have no gate-no access to heaven.

3. Your prayer is directed to God your Father, not just the Father of all believers.

This shows a personal relationship between you and God. It is a covenantal relationship but it is also a personal relationship. This is why the Psalmist often said: "My Lord...my God."

Jeremiah 3: 17 "At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts. 18 "In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers. 19 "But I said: 'How can I put you among the children And give you a pleasant land, A beautiful heritage of the hosts of nations?' "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.

Jesus specifically chose the word “our” Father in heaven to **guard against self-righteousness (自以为义)** or arrogance in your thinking. He does not want you to think that you are so special to the exclusion of others. **You are not the favorite.** You have and share and pray to the same heavenly Father with millions of other Christians throughout all the ages. And you pray for each other – though you may fight with each other from time to time.

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

a. You will implicitly (无保留地) 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 the house. You are his child forever.

b. You will not pray superstitiously (迷信地) , or in a daydreaming way. The closeness to your Father takes away superstition.

c. You will not direct your prayers to anyone else. You are not to direct your prayers to dead saints (圣徒) , 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.**

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 (尊荣)** 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.

You can expect his **full answer to your request for an inheritance (产业)** . You can ask him for help to do his will, whatever his will is. (Prayer is not ultimately about your need, but about what you need to do the work of God!) He has promised to provide everything that is needful for your body and soul to do his will.

2. You would not have too much hope if the relative from whom you were hoping to get an inheritance were living on the street in cardboard house, would you?

And if your children were waiting for an inheritance from you, you still have limitations of what you can do. President Trump wants peace in the Middle East, but he is dependent on others. He can’t do it by himself. Many presidents have tried but failed to do this. But that is not the futile feeling you have when dealing with God. **Your God in heaven has all power to do his will!**

3. Look at the power, love, and wisdom of your able heavenly Father.

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 (谷仓) ; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit (肘) to his stature? 28 **“So why do you worry about clothing?”** Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil (织布) nor spin (纺线) ; 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 (外邦人) 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 above. If dumb and impoverished earthly fathers give good gifts to their children, how much more won’t your **holy, heavenly, 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?**

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

a. Since your Father is in heaven, this means you must treat him with great respect in your daily lives, not with “pedestrian familiarity” -as an ordinary man.

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疆界 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.'

In the market place the Apostle (使徒) Paul pointed out that temples could not contain God – the God who made every living thing in the earth...who determined when and how everything would live and be limited. The temple could not contain God and heaven could not contain him. God must be therefore treated with the highest honor possible.

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. This means nothing is out of his Divine sight or control. **So always honor him.** Maybe you heard of the young lady 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 that her parents existed solely for her benefit and was not interested in going what her parents wanted. She didn't honor them, so they ignored her demands.

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

Conclusion:

God is your Father because you were adopted in Christ Jesus. God only adopts children through Jesus Christ. As a good father, he wants his children to pray. Only Christians are able to pray.

As your Father he is willing to do what is good for you and give you what you need to do the work he has assigned指定, 安排for you. As your Father is able to do what he promised. After all, 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魔鬼似的 decoys圈套. Only God is 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!|

3. Pray perseveringly坚持不懈地? No saint of God has ever regretted praying too much. Saints always regret praying too little. 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赐给, 给予 on us, that we should be called children of God..." The writer is expressing an astounding使人震惊的 love-God's love in sending Christ to die for our sins-that 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.