



FAITH MAIL

August 2023

Praying Yahshua's Prayer (1)

The Lord's Prayer is known and said all over the world. Though many repeat it daily, they haven't fully grasped what they are saying. If we had a deeper understanding of this prayer when praying, our lives and our communities could radically change. Yahshua taught it to His disciples. After they heard Him praying, they asked Him to teach them how to do the same (Luke 11:1). It's not that these disciples didn't know how to pray; it's something they had done from childhood. But the way Yahshua prayed challenged them; it was markedly different to what they knew and saw among the religious.

Let's examine the first part of this world-famous prayer, set out by Yahshua in Matthew 6:9, clause by clause. It begins with:

Our Father

Yahshua used the term 'our' instead of 'my', which indicates that we're part of a community – Yahweh's Kingdom – and encourages us to pray together. He also reveals that the God of Israel is our Father. The term 'father' that Yahshua used brings together two words, *abba* and *pater*. In Yahshua's time, *abba* was a title of endearment children used towards their father, meaning 'daddy'. *Pater* is the typical Greek word that refers to a father. The combination of *abba* and *pater* only ever refers to Yahweh. He is the ultimate caregiver, protector, and authority in the lives of His children. Through this model, Yahshua invites us to pray to His Father just as He does; confidently approaching and speaking to *Abba* because we have a personal and intimate relationship with Him.

...in heaven

We recognise and place *Abba* Father in His rightful place – in heaven, invincible, omnipotent, eternal, unchanging, faithful, and above everything. So, in whatever situation we find ourselves, we can lift our eyes to heaven, knowing He's there for us.

hallowed be your name

Here we make our first appeal to *Abba*, literally saying, "Let your name be sanctified". But we make it personal because our relationship with Him is personal. "His name is holy, and I want it to be sanctified everywhere, but first and foremost, in my life today." We best accomplish this by living a holy life with *Abba* Father at its centre.

Next time you say this prayer, remember the relationship from which it flows – it's deeply personal!