

“On Earth as It Is in Heaven” Matthew 6:1-13

Last month we let the first two words in this “Disciples Prayer” – “Our Father” – set the tone for our praying so that we always remember the personal and familial nature of it all. His invitation is always “call unto ME”, “come unto ME”, “listen to ME”. Praying is always relational (not mechanical), always about communion (not just communication). We are forever His always-being-loved-children, eternal heirs of His always sufficient supply.

However, we must never take His “open door policy” (Heb 4:16) so casually or carelessly that we become “cheeky” or sassy in His presence! The clause following “Our Father” reminds us of that... “Who is in heaven.” HE IS NOT ONE OF US! (See Ecclesiastes 5:2 on that subject!) He is One of a kind, in a category unto Himself, and as our friend Jim Fowler says, “What God is only God is.” Any open door, any connection, any privilege, any relationship, any “help”... is always pure grace. Membership in God’s family is always a “privilege”, but we are to never forget that He is non-beginning, non-ending Life. He is the Uncreated Creator Who created us and recreated us for His glory. The creature never becomes the Creator. The human on earth never becomes or is ever absorbed into the God who is in heaven.

Heaven is impossible to define and even difficult to describe with any absolute certainty. But one thing can be said with full clarity – HEAVEN IS THE PLACE OF ONE WILL. The angel Lucifer tried to introduce a “second will” there, but, as you remember, he and his “second will” were both tossed out of heaven. I believe it is safe to say that any experience of “on earth as it is in heaven” will involve bowing to One Will... His! (Eph 3:14) So even though we may boldly and confidently call unto “Our Father” without any fear of rejection, we must not do so with any thought that we will conform Him to any will other than His own. We approach “Our Father” with all humility, with a heart open to His heavenly passions and purposes.

Our Elder Brother – Jesus Christ – has fully demonstrated that it is possible for “heaven” to come to “earth”, for the “one will” of heaven to face and defeat the “second will” of the fallen on earth. The “one will” of “our Father in heaven” can be faithfully received, hopefully enacted, and lovingly displayed on earth. If the One Who rules from Heaven is “Our Father”, it is possible to crush the head of every serpent that gets in our way on earth! (See Genesis 3:15)



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Greetings





My role as interim pastor at FBCA will come to an end on October 31st. It has been, I hope, a beneficial season for all who were involved. Thank you for your prayers, your online participation, and encouragement along the way.

OIC will continue to share the liberating awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" as God makes a righteous way for us to do so. We are still doing counseling with vocational ministers of all stripes and sizes, consulting with congregations in distress, small group studies, and other options as God opens doors.

We will continue to do out of town conferences and meetings, but at a lesser pace. Perhaps 10 or 12 per year - not the usual 20-25. Hope to see a number of you in your neck of the woods in 2024!

For God's family, Thanksgiving is much broader and deeper than a national holiday. Yes, we will give thanks for our nation and its liberties, for our pantries and their provisions, for our families and their love. We will also dive deeply into the well of God's eternal and infinite blessings, for we realize every good and perfect gift comes from "Our Father" above. We have believed and come to know we have nothing that we have not freely received from Him and His amazing grace. And we recognize - even though through a glass darkly - an eternal day awaits us in which there will no more deficits, no more shortfalls, no more fear of lack. From the assurance of that day, we give thanks in every day!

Praise & Prayer

-  Those who do not yet know the Creator as their Father
-  The "one will" of God to reign in every aspect of our lives
-  Free and unhindered access to Our Father
-  Assurance of a full and forever Supply

Calendar

NOVEMBER

7	Alachua Study
28	Ocala Study



Florida Retreat



February 23-25, 2024

Alachua Florida

Mark your calendars now – details and theme will be announced in next month's newsletter!

Cost:

\$330/couple

\$175/single (2 to room)

\$275 single (1 to room)

\$50 per person deposit due by January 22, 2024