

PRAGMATIC PRAYER



**This, then, is how you should pray:
“Our Father...”**

Understanding God as
our heavenly FATHER
can and should mean:

Absence of **FEAR**

“My father... is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

(Jn. 10:29)

Accessibility of **WISDOM**

”If anyone loves me... my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him... And the Father will send the counselor in my name, and he will teach you all things...”

(Jn. 14:23,26)

Availability of **RESOURCES**

“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Truly, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name... Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

(Jn. 16:23-27)

Commitment to **OBEDIENCE**

“He who does not love [me] will not obey my teaching. These words are not my own. They belong to the Father who sent me.”

(Jn. 14:24)

Abandonment of **SELFISHNESS**

“In my Father’s house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you.” (plural) [all of you]

(Jn. 14:2)

Tragically, we understand why some folks have a negative emotional response to “Father.” Yet it is utterly **WRONG** to reject God’s self revelation based on this.

Should we reject the use of money
because we received a counterfeit bill?
Should we reject the fatherhood of God
because of fathers that are false copies
of the true father? NO.

The DIVINE STANDARD should be held over earthly fathers rather than rejected because of them.

**lead us not into temptation i.e.
deliver us from evil**

In his righteousness and goodness,
God will never lead someone into a
place/circumstance to purposely
induce them to **disobey** or **reject** him.

“Do not lead us into” (negative) =
“Lead us away from” (positive)

POINT: Asking God to GUARD us because our own sense of **self-sufficiency** or **presumption** may lead to failure.

*It is a statement of profound HUMILITY

I am coming to you, but they are still in the world. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name... my prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world even as I am not of it. (*Jn. 17:11-15*)

In confessing our need for the protection and deliverance of our Heavenly Father, we are confessing our **inadequacy** to deal with evil. He, alone, is our safeguard.