

OCTOBER 13, 2019

“Holy is your name”

In referring to God as “Abba”, Jesus has revealed a radical intimacy that God’s people (his beloved *children*) have with the Father. But just as God’s closeness is to be celebrated, so is his *holiness*. Jesus teaches us that we are to *sanctify* God’s name. It means that we treat him with unique reverence, understanding that his supremacy is unmatched in all of Creation. Out of his holiness, we are invited to experience his *love* and *goodness*, not run from it. God may be “otherly” and distinct, but he is *knowable*.

- What does it mean for something to be HOLY?
- How has God revealed himself to us as loving and good?
- Many passages speak of God’s holiness and his holy name. Read Isaiah 57:15 (other side).
 - How does God describe his dwelling place?
 - Why do you think God draws near to those who are “lowly”? Why should this matter to the people of God?
- When you think of God - be it in prayer or just your imagination - is he close or far away?
- Do you think the Church still reveres the Name of God? Why/why not?
- As someone who is sent with name of God upon you, how can your life reflect his love and goodness (=holiness) more?

MATTHEW 6:9-13 NASV

⁷“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

⁹“Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

LUKE 11:2-4 NASV

(After the disciples asked Jesus teach them how to pray)

²And He said to them, “When you pray, say:

‘Father, hallowed be Your name.

Isaiah 57:15

15 For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

“IT IS A PRAYER THAT TEACHES US TO PRAY. IT IS A FOUNDATION OF THE PRAYING LIFE: ITS INTRODUCTION AND ITS CONTINUING BASIS. IT IS AN ENDURING FRAMEWORK FOR ALL PRAYING. YOU ONLY MOVE BEYOND IT PROVIDED YOU STAY WITHIN IT. IT IS THE NECESSARY BASS IN THE GREAT SYMPHONY OF PRAYER. IT IS A POWERFUL LENS THROUGH WHICH ONE CONSTANTLY SEES THE WORLD AS GOD HIMSELF SEES IT.”

- DALLAS WILLARD