

# Hallowing God's Name

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When Jesus taught His earliest followers how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13), He made it clear that prayer is meant to be much more than asking our faithful heavenly Father to meet our needs. Certainly we are supposed to ask—Jesus said we're to ask for our “daily bread” (Matthew 6:11) and that we're to ask, seek and knock (Matthew 7:7-9). But when Jesus gave them a model prayer to use as an example of how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13), He began His prayer with “Our Father in heaven, *hallowed be Your name.*” We're to worship first, before asking for anything.

When we worship God by hallowing His names (there are hundreds of them in the Bible), we can know that every name reveals something of His character and nature, the essence of who He is. His names are an indication of the ways He wants to relate to us personally. For instance, when we are fearful or overwhelmed, we can turn to Him as our faithful God, knowing He desires to show us His faithfulness, as He did with Peter when he tried to walk on the water. Peter called out and found Him faithful (Matthew 14:28-31)!

You might open your prayer with a simple phrase like, “Father, I worship You as my faithful God.” Then instead of continuing on, pause for a moment to focus mind and heart on what this means to you personally. Think of times when you, like Peter, called out to Him and experienced His faithfulness. Thank Him for those times.

Beginning prayer this way helps set our minds on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) instead of on our concerns. Hallowing God's name buoys our faith, for it reminds us of who He is—and how able.