

ENJOYING GOD // Hallowed Be Your Name

In his great sermon, *A Divine and Supernatural Light*, Jonathan Edwards states,

“There is a difference between having an opinion, that God is holy a gracious, and having a sense of the loveliness and beauty of that holiness and grace. There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet and having a sense of its sweetness.”

- Jonathan Edwards, *A Divine and Supernatural Light*

Our hope is that we wouldn't just learn about prayer, communication, and relationship with God but that we would enjoy Him for ourselves. That we would actually taste and see that the Lord is good as we work our way through the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6.

Last week, we concluded by saying that without our Father, there is no hallowed be your name, or your kingdom come, or forgive us our debts. See, “Our Father in Heaven” takes this idea that God is distant, and cold, and it takes all of the lies that the devil would have us believe and flips them on their head.

The word heaven means the air, so, it's not “Our Father” out there somewhere, unknowable, and inaccessible. It's “Our Father” always near us. “Our Father” all around us.

“Our Father” is a reminder of who He is, who we are, and who we are to one another.

Matthew 6:9 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” (ESV)

Hallow isn't common language for us today, but it essentially means to “make holy, to set apart.” Ultimately, Hallowing the Name of God is about recognizing the greatness, the majesty, the wholly distinctive character, and nature of God.

**“Our Father in Heaven” is a reminder of God's intimacy and accessibility.
“Hallowed be Your name” is a reminder of God's holiness and power.**

This is all about adoration. Hallowing is all about honoring, adoring, and naming the greatness of God.

Now, you might be thinking, *why in the world does an all-powerful, completely loving, self-sufficient Creator need me, a finite, flawed, human being that He created – to tell Him how great He is?*

On top of that, hallowing the name of God comes before petitioning God.

Hallowing the Name of God is not for God's benefit. It's for ours.

To hallow something means that you treat something as ultimate. It is sacred. It means that you make that thing your ultimate concern. You view it as the supreme beauty in your life, your ultimate goal. It is above all.

Jesus comes and says that God the Father is the ultimate. He is to be held as the most sacred One in your life. He is to be the sole aim of your life. He is the sacred One. He is the ultimate aim of life. And above everything that competes for your devotion, He alone is worth all your passion, all your effort, all your talent, your thoughts, your affection, all of your life.

Q: Do you know what this is? **It's worship.**

Matthew 6:5-6 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (ESV)

Now, what Jesus is telling us here is that there is a type of person that the thing they want most in life is praise, recognition, and acclaim from people. They want to be seen as special, unique, distinct, set apart. Therefore, they only pray when they're seen praying.

Q: Do you realize what Jesus is telling us here? He's saying that these people are not hallowing the name of God, they're hallowing themselves and using the name of God to do it. They're exalting themselves in God's name.

Jesus then instructs us to pray in secret because there is no public recognition for private prayer. Jesus is helping us to get our motivation for praying in the right place.

However, even if you do pray in secret, there is also a kind of prayer that happens only when your ultimate concern is at stake.

For example, if you only pray when your life is falling apart. If you're not really into prayer, and then someone breaks up with you, and then you start praying all the time, that reveals that what you truly hallowed was that person and not God. And you want God to give your idol back to you.

What He wants to do is teach you to hallow Him, and not your partner, or your career, your finances, or your success.

If any of those things are your ultimate concern and they begin to go south, and you begin praying like you've never prayed before, it reveals that you never really adored God, but you were adoring that thing your most afraid of losing.

Do you only pray when you're in trouble? Or when you suffer? Or when things go badly? Do you see what's happening?

If the thing you hallow is not God, then you'll only pray when that thing is in jeopardy. And in that way, the consistency of your prayer life is enormously telling on whether you worship God or something else.

Saint Augustine wrote that what really makes you what you are is not so much what you say or what you believe or even how you behave. It's what you love.

If you're a driven workaholic, if you are constantly getting into destructive relationships that you can't get out of, if you look at any aspect of your life and you say, "I don't know how to change this ...," it's because your heart hasn't yet learned to enjoy God. To receive and reciprocate the love of God. Your heart must be captivated by God's love for you.

What makes you what you are is not what you think, or what you do, so much as what you love.

And if you love anything else in life more than God and that thing is taken from you, you'll be devastated. If you love that thing more than God and you lose it, then you've lost everything. If it's gone, you're gone. If they leave, you're lost.

**Jesus tells us to Hallow God. Not because God needs your adoration,
but because your adoration needs God.**

Everyone hallows something, but the only way you ever find peace is if you hallow Him.

"Man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols."

John Calvin

"One very difficult aspect of sin is that my sin never feels like sin to me. My sin feels like life to me, plain and simple. My heart is an idol factory, and my mind is an excuse-making factory."

Rosaria Butterfield

This is exactly why all throughout the Old Testament, even when God lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and led them by a pillar of fire and cloud by day, they immediately begin to worship other things. They continually turn to idols.

And we look at the Israelites and wonder, *how could they do that?* Yet we do this all the time.

We HALLOW money, career, relationships, which are not bad things in and of themselves. But as Timothy Keller said in regard to worship, "We take a good things and turn them into ultimate things."

Hallowing God frees us. It heals us. Hallowing the name of God allows us to treat everything else in life in proportion to the way God designed it. To truly enjoy what was meant to be enjoying without crushing those things under the weight of our hopes or burdensome expectations.

It's also important to note that when we pray, "Hallowed be Your name..." it's not only a reminder to our own hearts that God alone is Holy, distinct, set apart, but it's a request that God's name would be revered. Not just in my own heart but in the whole world. That the rest of the world would see God for who He really is and adore Him, Hallow Him. Treat Him, Honor Him as the only one who is worthy of our worship and adoration!

Praying, "Hallowed be your name," is simply praying...*God open people's eyes to see you for who you really are.*

The reality is that all of the unrest, all of the division, all of the brokenness and hurt, and confusion, all of the division, and twisting and distorting of our world is all a result of people, including us, hallowing something other than God!

And as followers of Jesus, if we're hallowing anything other than God, there will be no love, joy, peace, patience, or kindness about us. We will be overcome with fear, anger, hatred, bitterness, and crippling anxiety about the state of the world, and we'll find ourselves looking to solutions other than God who is the ONLY solution for the condition for the human heart and for the state of our broken world!

It's not burying your head in the sand. It's lifting your eyes to heaven.

Do you HALLOW God? Can you truly pray "Our Father in Heaven, HALLOWED be your name"? Can you say that, not as some wrote religious prayer, but as the cry of your heart? Hallowed, holy, set apart, beautiful, ultimate...

The key is what Jesus teaches us to pray.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."

Why does Jesus say "name." Why not just, hallowed are you? And why do we end our prayers "In the **name** of Jesus, Amen"? Have you ever thought about this?

In modern society, names are how we identify one another. It's a way to distinguish one person, from another person. But that's not the way Jesus is using the word "name." It wasn't just a way to distinguish one person from another or identify someone. A name is the full representation of a person's character. Of their nature. Of whom they are, what they're like.

When Jesus says, “Hallowed be your name” do you see what He’s saying? He’s saying, *Father your character, everything about you, your nature, who you are, is HOLY. You are the beauty that creates and encompasses all other beauties. You are the goodness and causes and encompasses all other good in the world. You are the source of all that is right, true, just. God you are all of it. Hallowed be your name.*

So, when you pray, “In the name of Jesus” you’re saying, “I’m praying in alignment with the character and nature of Jesus.”

If we are going to “hallow” God, we must know His name. We have to behold who He is. To think on His character and meditate on who He is.

Do you know that God declared His own name in Exodus 34? This is the most quoted verse in the bible by the bible. It’s the most cross-referenced verse in the whole of scripture. It’s God declaring His own nature, His own character.

Exodus 34:5-7, “The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

What does God say about His own character? What does God tell His creation about who He is? What is the fullness of His character? What is there to adore?

- He’s full of mercy.
- He’s gracious and patient.
- He’s not quick tempered, He’s not impatiently waiting for us to get ourselves together, and He’s not eagerly waiting for a chance to punish people.
- He is ABOUNDING in steadfast love, desiring loving connection, intimacy with you— inviting you in to that loving relationship with Him.
- He’s faithful, unwavering in His love for you.
- He forgives iniquity, transgression and sin.
- And yet, He’s a God of justice.

His name is Yahweh, and because of everything that Jesus is and everything He has done, we can not only know about Him, we can enjoy Him. We can enter into loving relationship with Him. We can HALLOW the name of God.

God invites us to adore Him, not because he needs something from us. God invites us to adore Him, because it’s what our hearts need more than anything else in the world.

“Adoration lifts us out of ourselves to behold the wonder and beauty of God.”

Greg Ogden

As we Hallow Him, we’re lifted out of our selfishness and sin and welcomed in into to the very life of God Himself.

- 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The LORD is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.]

- 14 The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
- 15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
- 16 You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- 17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
- 18 The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
- 20 The LORD preserves all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Maybe today you’ve been hallowing something other than God. Maybe you recognize in your own heart a need, an adoration of something that is distorting or twisting your life.

Or maybe today, you're praying "Hallowed be your name" as a request that someone you know would see God for who He really is.

Let's remind our hearts to Hallow the name of God, as we bring our whole selves, our needs, petitions, and our adoration to Him.