

Talking to Our Generous Father

Matthew 7:7-11

Many times (15x's to be exact) in this portion of text (Chapters 5-7) we see Jesus referring to God as "your Father" (5:16, 5:45, 6:1, 6:4, 6:6, 6:8, 6:15, 6:18, 7:11), "our Heavenly Father" (5:48, 6:14, 6:26, 6:32), and "my Father or our Father" (6:9, 7:21).

One quick but crucial reminder: Our understanding of the Father's _____ (His heart) must be embedded in the special _____ of His _____.

Two aspects that Jesus ties together – the *generous nature* of our Father and the call to *persistence* in prayer by His children (you and I).

Rightly _____ the heart of our Father is key to _____ with Him.

Our Father's Invitation: _____ (v. 7)

A few general statements regarding prayer:

Prayer _____ God (John 14:13-14; Ps 50:15).

Prayer deepens our _____ and _____ closeness with the Father (Ps 145:18; Jer 29:12-13; Jas 4:8).

Prayer is to be _____ not _____.

Prayer aligns us to God's _____ (Col 1:9; 1 John 5:14).

To be _____ is aligning ourselves with the will of the Father.

Prayer reminds us of our _____ on the Father (Matt 6:11; John 15:5).

Coming to the Father in prayer is an act of _____ that highlights God's sufficiency and provision and reminds us of our _____ of Him.

Prayer is an _____ of our _____ in the Father (Ps 62:8; Phil 4:6; 1 Pet 5:7).

When we pray, we are _____ stating that we believe, and have confidence in the Creator of the universe to do what is _____ and _____ on our behalf.

Our endeavor: Keep _____ in prayer.

Our posture: Humility coupled with _____ (Isa 64:8)

Our Father's Response: _____ (v. 8)

God's posture: _____ and _____

God's Action: _____ His promises to His children

God fulfills His promises because of His _____ nature – His immutability (Num 23:19; Mal 3:6; Is 46:9-11; Heb 6:17-18; 2 Tim 2:13).

God fulfills His promises because by doing so He upholds His _____ (Ezek 36:22-23; Isa 48:9-11; John 14:13; Rom 15:8-9).

Our Father's Character: _____, _____, and _____ (vv. 9-11)

Our Father is a _____ (Jas 1:17).

Wonderful truth: As children of God, we can be _____ of the generosity of our Father who desires to give _____ things to those who ask Him.

So, how is good defined?

God _____ what is good and beneficial for us, His children. As a good Father, He only _____ good things as He _____ good (Ps 84:11; Jas 1:17).

God gives us those *things* that _____ us more to the image of His _____.

These good gifts given by our good and generous Father should _____ us to be more _____.

The perfection of our all-knowing heavenly Father assures us that He will guide and answer us _____.

A Few Exhortations:

Be _____ in prayer to your heavenly Father

Be _____ in pursuing your heavenly Father in prayer

Be _____ that through your prayers your heavenly Father will provide what is good and perfect.

Questions for Reflection:

What is your heart posture when God *seems* to delay or not respond to your prayers?

What was your *response* when God answered a prayer regarding a matter you petitioned Him about?

How do you *perceive* the Father?

Do you trust (indicator of the posture of the heart) the generous heart of the Father to go to Him *consistently* in prayer?

Do you trust the generous heart of the Father to answer you *on His terms* not your own?

Are you a *reflection* of your Father's goodness and generosity toward others?