



HOW DO WE PRAY?

AN 8 PART STUDY ON INTIMACY WITH GOD

Session 3: Holy is Your Name

*Seeing the character of God
revealed through His name*

Introduction – The First Movement of Worship

The opening words of the Lord's Prayer establish our relationship with God:

Our Father in heaven.

In Session 2 we explored what this means. Through Jesus Christ we approach God as children welcomed into His family. Prayer begins with relationship.

Now the prayer moves in a new direction.

Immediately after naming the relationship, Jesus teaches us to say:

“Holy is Your name.”

This phrase shifts prayer from **relationship to worship**.

Before bringing our needs, before asking for provision or forgiveness, Jesus teaches us to pause and acknowledge the holiness and character of God.

Prayer begins not with ourselves, but with **who God is**.

Scripture Reading

Read the Lord's Prayer slowly.

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–13

⁹Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today the food we need, ¹²and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

As you read, notice how the prayer begins:

- First with **relationship**
- Then with **reverence**

These opening movements shape the entire prayer life of the believer.

Key Idea

When Jesus teaches us to pray “**Hallowed be Your name,**” He invites us to recognize the holiness, character, and glory of God.

Prayer begins by remembering **who God truly is**.



Movement 1 – What Does “Hallowed” Mean?

The word “**Hallowed**” is not commonly used in modern conversation, but its meaning is deeply important.

The New Living Translation expresses the phrase slightly differently.

Scripture: Matthew 6:9

⁹ Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

The NLT reads:

“May your name be kept holy.”

To understand this prayer, we need to understand what the Bible means when it calls God **holy**.

At its simplest level, the word **holy** means:

different
set apart

God is not simply a greater version of something we already understand. He is fundamentally different from anything in creation.

Nothing compares to Him.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:8–9

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

God’s wisdom, character, power, and purposes are beyond anything we could fully comprehend.

This idea appears vividly in the vision of the prophet Isaiah.

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1–3

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

In Isaiah’s vision, heavenly beings surround the throne of God and cry out:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”

In Hebrew language, repeating a word three times expresses the highest level of emphasis. The angels are declaring that God is not merely holy—He is **utterly, completely, unimaginably holy**.

He is unlike anything else.



When we begin to grasp this truth, something important happens within us.

Holiness inspires **awe and wonder**.

We begin to recognize that God is greater than anything we could imagine. His wisdom exceeds ours. His goodness surpasses ours. His purposes extend far beyond what we can see.

In fact, when we feel that we have God completely figured out, we have almost certainly made Him far too small.

Prayer begins by remembering that the God we approach is not only close to us as Father—He is also infinitely greater than anything we could ever conceive.

When we pray **“Hallowed be Your name,”** we are acknowledging that God's name, character, and presence are set apart from everything else.

We come before Him with reverence, humility, and wonder.

Movement 2 – The Meaning of God’s Name

In modern culture, names are often used primarily for identification. They help distinguish one person from another.

In the ancient Near Eastern world, however, names carried much deeper meaning.

A name often revealed something about:

- a person’s character
- their identity
- their purpose
- their story

Throughout Scripture we see this pattern repeatedly.

Scripture: Genesis 17:5

⁵What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham for you will be the father of many nations.

Scripture: Genesis 32:28

²⁸“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”

Abram becomes Abraham.

Jacob becomes Israel.

These new names represent transformation and calling.



In the same way, God's name in Scripture is not merely a label. It reveals His character and nature.

To honor God's name is to recognize **who He truly is**.

Movement 3 – God Reveals His Name

One of the most important moments in Scripture occurs when God reveals His name to Moses.

Scripture: Exodus 3:13–15

¹³ But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?” ¹⁴ God replied to Moses, “I am who I am.^[a] Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.

When Moses asks what name he should use to describe the God who sent him, God responds with a profound declaration.

God identifies Himself as:

“I AM WHO I AM.”

This name communicates God's eternal nature. He is not defined by anything outside Himself. He simply **is**.

Later in Scripture this name becomes associated with the covenant name of God often written as **YHWH**, sometimes translated as **“the LORD.”**

This name reminds God's people that He is:

- eternal
- self-sufficient
- faithful to His promises

To hallow God's name means recognizing the greatness of the One who revealed Himself to His people.

Movement 4 – The Many Names of God in Scripture

Throughout the Bible, God reveals different aspects of His character through various names and descriptions.

Each name helps believers understand more about who God is.

Examples include:



The Lord Who Provides

Scripture: Genesis 22:14

¹⁴Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

The Lord Who Heals

Scripture: Exodus 15:26

²⁶He said, “If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you.”

The Lord Our Peace

Scripture: Judges 6:24

²⁴And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means “the Lord is peace”). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.

The Lord Our Shepherd

Scripture: Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

These names do not describe different gods. They reveal different dimensions of the character of the same God.

And these names are only a few of the many names in scripture for God. Through them we get an insight into just how amazing our God is.

Together they help believers visualize the nature of the Father we approach in prayer.

God is not distant or abstract.

He is the God who:

- provides
- heals
- guides
- protects
- restores

When we pray “**Hallowed be Your name,**” we remember the fullness of who God is.

Movement 5 – Jesus Reveals the Name of the Father

Jesus continues this revelation of God’s character.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus reveals what the Father is like.



Scripture: John 14:8–9

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

To see Jesus is to see the character of God.

Jesus demonstrates:

- compassion for the broken
- authority over evil
- mercy toward sinners
- faithfulness to the Father

Through Jesus, the name and character of God become visible in human life.

Prayer that honors God's name therefore includes remembering what we have seen in Christ.

Movement 6 – Living in a Way That Honors God’s Name

The prayer “**Hallowed be Your name**” is not only a statement of worship. It is also a commitment.

When believers honor God's name in prayer, they also seek to honor His name through their lives.

Scripture: Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

The way believers speak, act, forgive, and love reflects the character of the God they worship.

Prayer shapes the heart so that God's name is honored not only with words but through daily living.

Summary – Hallowed Be Your Name

This part of the Lord’s Prayer teaches believers to begin prayer with worship.

God’s name represents His character, identity, and holiness.

When we pray “**Hallowed be Your name,**” we:

- acknowledge God's holiness
- remember His character



- honor His presence
- commit to reflecting His name in our lives

Prayer begins by turning our attention toward the greatness of God.

Reflection Questions

1. What does the phrase “**Hallowed be Your name**” mean to you?
 2. How does understanding the biblical meaning of holiness deepen your understanding of this prayer?
 3. Which of the names of God in Scripture speaks most strongly to you right now?
 4. How might remembering God's character change the way you pray?
 5. In what ways can your life reflect honor toward God's name?
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Personal Notes

(Use this space to record insights, questions, or reflections.)

Practice for the Week

This week, begin your prayers by reflecting on **who God is**.

Each day choose one aspect of God's character revealed in Scripture.

For example:

- God as Shepherd
- God as Provider
- God as Peace

Begin your prayer by acknowledging that aspect of God's character.

Allow worship to shape the rest of your prayer.

Closing Thought

Prayer does not begin with our needs.

Prayer begins with **the holiness of God**.

When we say “**Hallowed be Your name,**” we remember that the Father we approach is not only near—He is holy, faithful, and worthy of worship.



From that place of reverence, the rest of the prayer unfolds.

