

EXALTATION

TEXT: (Matthew 6:9, KJV)

⁹ Our Father which art in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

1. “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others” (Matthew 6:5, NIV).
2. “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:7-8, NIV).
- 3 “On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. ‘Sovereign Lord,’ they said, ‘you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them’” (Acts 4:23-24, NIV).

I. HUMILITY

A. Humility Is the Key to Acceptance by God

1. “And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8, NIV).
2. “He stood on the platform and then knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven” (II Chronicles 6:13, NIV).
3. “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time” (I Peter 5:6, NIV).
4. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3, NIV).

B. The Way Up Is Down

1. "'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9, NIV).
2. “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9, KJV).
3. “Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross” (Philippians 2:6-8, NIV).
4. “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10, NIV).

C. Humility Wins God’s Favor

1. “The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’
“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’
“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:11-14, NIV).

2. “Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life” (Proverbs 22:4, NIV).
3. “But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6, NIV).
4. “I die every day” (I Corinthians 15:31, NIV).

II. HONOR HIM

1. “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9, KJV).

A. Remember Who He Is

1. “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way” (II Chronicles 6:14, NIV).
2. “Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God’” (John 20:28, NIV)!
3. “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9, KJV).

B. Remember He Is Faithful

1. “You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today” (II Chronicles 6:15, NIV).
2. “For he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23, NIV).
3. “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:23-25, NIV).

C. Be Willing to Let Go

1. “Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about’” (Genesis 22:2, NIV).
2. “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death” (Hebrews 11:17-19, NIV).

III. DECLARE HIS PROMISES

A. Remind God of His Promises

1. “Now LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me according to my law, as you have done’” (II Chronicles 6:16, NIV).
2. “Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus” (II Corinthians 1:20, MSG).
3. “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, NIV).
4. “And now, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David come true” (II Chronicles 6:17, NIV).

B. Ponder His Greatness

1. “But will God really dwell on earth with men? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built” (II Chronicles 6:18, NIV).
2. “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9, KJV).
3. “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you” (I Corinthians 3:16, NIV)?

C. Get Down to Business in Prayer

1. “When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven” (Nehemiah 1:4, NIV).
3. “In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. And she made a vow, saying, ‘O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life’” (1 Samuel 1:10-11, NIV)

CONCLUSION

1. “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9, KJV).