

## **The Lord's Prayer Part 1**

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ." Philippians 4:6-7*

### **The Key to Peace with God: Pray**

*"And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.'" Luke 11:1*

*"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven ...'" Matthew 6:9*

### **God is a Father, not an impersonal force**

### **Four Truths About our Heavenly Father:**

#### **1. He is a Compassionate Father.**

*"Just as a father has compassion on His children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him." Psalm 103:13*

*"Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7*

*"Do not be anxious saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these." Matthew 6:31-32*

#### **2. He is a Consistent Father.**

*"Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow." James 1:17*

*"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself." 2 Timothy 2:13*

*"For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed." Malachi 3:6*

*"For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us." 2 Corinthians 1:20*

### **3. He is a who is Close.**

*“God did this so people would... reach out for Him and find Him, since He is not far from each of us.” Acts 17:27*

#### **He is never too busy for me.**

*“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.” Psalm 145:18*

#### **He loves to meet my needs.**

*“The righteous cry and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:17-18*

#### **He is sympathetic to my hurts.**

*“I will cry to God Most High, to God who accomplishes all things for me. He will send from heaven and save me.” Psalm 57:2-3a*

### **4. He is a Competent Father.**

*“For nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37*

*“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.” Ephesians 3:20*

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also...’” John 14:6-7*

*“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26*

### **Luther’s Explanation:**

Our Father who art in heaven.

*What does this mean?* God would by these words tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may with all boldness and confidence ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.