

*He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come." (Luke 11)*

When I was younger, I took the power of these introductory words for granted. I focused mostly on what we were asking God for in this prayer. Then again, I could take it for granted. I had a dad at home, and I had a great relationship with him. For some, the words "Our Father" are the title by which the Lord's Prayer is known, and a way of addressing God. But others here something bigger in those words. For those that have not had someone to call "Father" or "Daddy" or "Papa" in their life, to know that our God is there for us, to be a Father to us, is a gift beyond measure. For some, who have only known "father" to represent abuse and scorn, the words "Our Father" can be difficult to stomach and absorb.

Regardless where we are at in relationship to God, to call out to the almighty as "Our Father," calls to mind that we have been adopted, and made a part of something holy and sacred. "Our Father" reminds us that we are heirs to a promise and a truth and a hope that has toppled kingdoms, rescued the lost, and transformed the world. When we pray this prayer, the opening words relay the message that the God we pray to is a God that lives for us, even as we seek to live for Him.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT1kO8mxbUE>

The link listed above is a powerful song called "The Prayer," becoming popular at weddings. It is a prayer of blessing, a prayer for God to give us protection, mercy, and peace.