

A Reformation of Prayer:

Foundations of Prayer

Galatians 4:1-7

Praying to our Father

Adopted into the Family

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

ESV

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.

Galatians 4:1–2

ESV

Slaves under the Guardian of the Law.

In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

Galatians 4:3

ESV

“Oh, my no, those
commandments are far too low a
standard for a redeemed child of
God, indwelt by the Holy Spirit,
and living under a gracious
covenant.”

— **John Reisinger**

“First, the Christian’s laws, or standards, are *much higher than those given to Israel*. Grace can, and does, demand far more than the laws given to Moses. Second, grace both informs and empowers a Christian to do what pleases God, whereas the Mosaic law could only inform. Grace is, in every way, higher and better than the law given at Mount Sinai.”

— **John Reisinger**

Sons Redeemed from Slavery.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4–5

ESV

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 7:6

ESV

Praying in the Name of the Son

Our Advocate

The Accuser cries, "Guilty!"

for the accuser of our brothers has
been thrown down, who accuses
them day and night before our
God.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

Job 1:6–7

ESV

The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

Job 1:6–7

ESV

The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

Job 1:7

ESV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 John 2:1

ESV

The Advocate cries, "Redeemed!"

And I will ask the Father, and he
will give you another Helper, to be
with you forever,

John 14:16

ESV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 John 2:1

ESV

“When you sin, his strength of resolve rises all the higher. When his brothers and sisters fail and stumble, he advocates on their behalf *because it is who he is*. He cannot bear to leave us alone to fend for ourselves.”

—Dane Ortlund

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

Hebrews 7:23–25

ESV

but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Hebrews 7:23–25

ESV

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:23–25

ESV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 John 2:1–2

ESV

He is the propitiation for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for
the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1–2

ESV

The Devil loves this development, because if he can get us to stop thinking about God's wrath at the cross, he can get us to stop thinking about how our sin is an offense to God, which means he can get us distracted from God's holiness and, thus, our need for salvation.

Jared Wilson

He is the propitiation for our sins,
and not for ours only but also for
the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2

ESV

“Do not minimize your sin or excuse it away. Raise no defense. Simply take it to the one who is already at the right hand of the Father, advocating for you on the basis of his own wounds. Let your own unrighteousness, in all your darkness and despair, drive you to Jesus Christ, the righteous, in all his brightness and sufficiency.”

Dane Ortlund

**Praying through the Power of the
Holy Spirit**
Our Intercessor

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:6

ESV

“Take an instance of the prayers of wicked men under their convictions, or their fears, troubles, and dangers, and the prayers of believers. The former is merely ... an outcry that distressed nature makes to the God of it, and as such alone it considers him.

—**John Owen**

But the other is ... the voice
of the Spirit of adoption
addressing itself in the
hearts of believers unto God
as a Father."

—John Owen

Cries of the Sons of God

Intercession of the Spirit of God.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18–22

ESV

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:18–22

ESV

For the creation was subjected to
futility, not willingly, but because
of him who subjected it, in hope

Romans 8:18–22

ESV

that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:18–22

ESV

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Romans 8:18–22

ESV

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:23

ESV

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

ESV

The foundation of prayer is communion with the Father, in the Son, through the Holy Spirit.