

“GOD OUR FATHER” DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER

Our prayer this week focuses on God Who is our “*Father*”. He is our Parent and Protector. He delights in us, loves us, protects us, corrects us and rebukes us out of His tender mercies and perfect love for us.

It comes from our Prayer Verse: Proverbs 3:11-12 "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a *father* the son he delights in."

Our encouragement from these verses is to understand first and foremost that our Heavenly *Father* loves us and delights in us. His love is a *perfect Fatherly* love that does not take for Himself, but only gives. For example, He gives us His Son for our sins, He gives us eternal life, He gives us an inheritance in Heaven with Jesus, He gives us His Holy Spirit to guide us and counsel us in this world, He gives us His peace, power and presence to live in this world and He gives us even more that is written all throughout His Word. We also learn from these verses that as a perfect *Father*, He also *delights* in us, meaning He takes great pleasure in us and rejoices over us, calling us His Own sons and daughters. And just as any *good* parent delights in their children, we also know in that delight and love there must be correction (discipline) to keep us from wrong and facing the consequences of our wrong choices. And this is what our verse is sharing with us about our Heavenly *Father*, *He loves us enough* to discipline us, even when it may hurt our *Father's* heart. Out of His tender mercies, He will correct, protect and rebuke us, to keep us from a greater hurt or pain that results from continuing in our wrong choices, our sins. In His wisdom, He will do what is necessary because He loves us with a perfect *Fatherly* love that desires a personal, warm and affectionate relationship with each one of us, understanding we are subject to sin, but freely offering His Son for our sins and then offering us His power and His presence to overcome those sinful temptations every day. Let us pray that we will understand how much He loves us and desires to do this for us. Let us pray that we won't resent Him when He disciplines us or rebukes us. Let us pray that we will quickly humble our hearts to Him, so we may live in His wisdom, power, presence and blessings throughout our lives. Let us pray that we will understand that our Heavenly *Father* delights in us and desired to create us for this place and time in eternity. Let us pray to our Heavenly *Father* Who wants to protect us, correct us and love us in a way that only a perfect *Father* can. Let us pray:

"Dear Heavenly Father, we humbly bow before Your throne in our hearts and praise You for being our “*Father*”. Lord, please help me and...

(names of those you are praying for)

to not despise Your discipline and nor resent Your rebuke, because You discipline those You love, as a *father* the son he delights in. Be their hope, O Lord God. May we recognize our need for You and humble our hearts before your mighty throne. May our hope be in You all day long. Father, we were yours before we were ever anyone else's and we trust in You that You will do this for us as we humbly ask, all for the glory of Your name. In Your precious Son's name, Jesus, we pray, Amen.