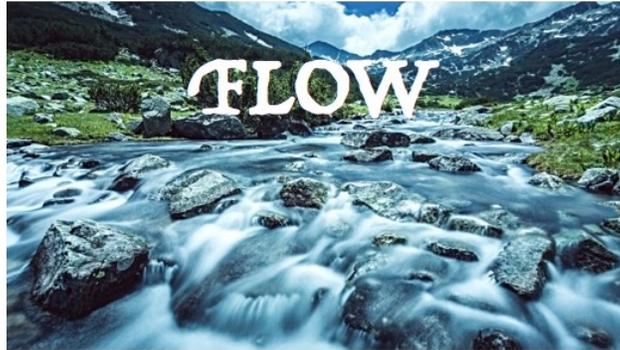


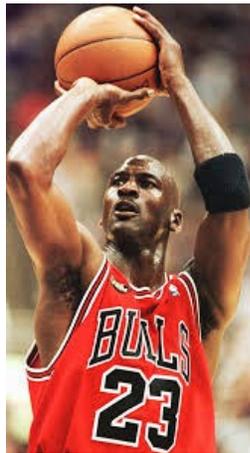
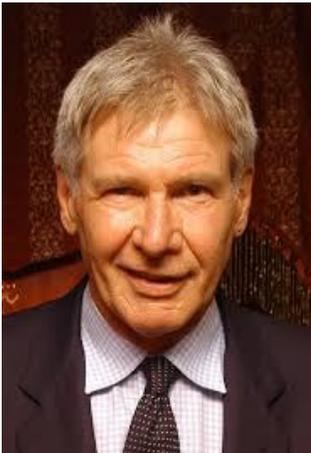
#11 March 15, 2017



“Hallowed Be Thy Name”

a prayer reflection

by Steve Wells



Throughout my years of childhood and adolescence I had the privilege of experiencing many cultural icons, as we all do, many of which are still remembered as some of the “GREATS!” I imagine that most of you, if not all of you, could name who the individuals are in the above pictures. You could probably tell me their name and some of the accomplishments that help to remind you of who they are. Many of the things we do in life speak to “WHO” we are and “WHAT” we’re remembered for. For instance, when I mention the names of my two sons, Chandler & Landon, in the presence of anyone who knows them, I will often times hear the phrase, “Chandler, he’s

the one that plays the drums, right?” or “Landon, he’s the one that plays guitar, right?” Our names are connected to the things that symbolically represent who we are — guitars = Landon / drums = Chandler.



In the beginning of the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9, it says, “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*” There are two parts to this first verse of the Lord’s Prayer.

First, GOD - our FATHER. When I think of God, I think powerful, almighty, all-knowing, the everlasting, the Alpha & the Omega, the beginning and the end. However, for some, life experiences have shaped the picture of God in their life as an overbearing, unforgiving warden who doesn’t ultimately care about them. Therefore, they don’t care or can’t think of God as their Father, unless, of course, their earthly Father was like that. But, for many, they don’t think of God as their Father in Heaven, let alone a Father at all. BUT, for me... I have come to know God as my Father in Heaven. He has been faithful and walked with me in all parts of my journey of life. He has comforted me as a Father should. He has taught me hard lessons as a Father should. He has allowed me to make mistakes to learn important life lessons as a Father should. And he has reveled in the joys and victories that I’ve experienced in my life’s accomplishments as a Father should. When a person respects and honors their father, loving their father is never seen as an obligation; rather, it’s seen as a gift of joy and gratitude.

This leads us to the second part, HALLOWED be your NAME. Hallowed means something that is holy - something that is set apart. In the new covenant of the New Testament, Jesus’ name isn’t just something to be spoken from the lips of man. Just as God’s name is Holy and encompasses

so much - too much to be comprehended - the name of Jesus is meant to be Holy in every way. His name, Jesus, represents the hope of redemption, the sovereignty of his deity and the understanding of mankind's inner struggles and outward distractions and temptations. Just as Jesus was the utmost example of righteous living, he was also the utmost example of love and devotion to a father, choosing to love him in the midst of all the distractions and temptations of this world. He truly understood God's holiness and his incomparable name.

Questions:

- Fun question of the day: Who are the people in the three pictures at the beginning of this devotional?
- What are the daily distractions that blind you from seeing the holiness of God on a daily basis?
- Are you able to see God as your heavenly Father? If not, why? What's hindering you from seeing God as your Father in Heaven?

Listen to this Sermon Jam from Francis Chan as one additional meditational thought:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vzt3ZDgZUn0>

Now that you've been given the opportunity to read, think and answer some questions about God, His holiness and the sovereignty of His name, take some time to listen to the following song, sing along and spend some time reflecting, meditating and prayerfully considering how you can acknowledge God, His holiness and His sovereignty in your life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ApkXjRY0mQ>

Additional Resources:

Book of Confessions 4.122

Q. 122. What is the first petition?

A. "Hallowed be thy name." That is: help us first of all to know thee rightly, and to hallow, glorify, and praise thee in all thy works through

which there shine thine almighty power, wisdom, goodness, righteousness, mercy, and truth. And so order our whole life in thought, word, and deed that thy name may never be blasphemed on our account, but may always be honored and praised.

7.300

Q. 190. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. In the first petition (which is, "Hallowed be thy name"), acknowledging the utter inability and indisposition that is in ourselves and all men to honor God aright, we pray: that God would by his grace enable and incline us and others to know, to acknowledge, and highly esteem him, his titles, attributes, ordinances, word, works, and whatsoever he is pleased to make himself known by; and to glorify him in thought, word, and deed; that he would prevent and remove atheism, ignorance, idolatry, profaneness, and whatsoever is dishonorable to him; and by his overruling providence, direct and dispose of all things to his own glory.