

THE DAILY GRACE CO.

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The Daily Grace Co. exists to equip disciples to know and love God and His Word by creating beautiful, theologically rich, and accessible resources so that God may be glorified and the gospel made known.

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The more we know God, the more we love Him.

The Names of God

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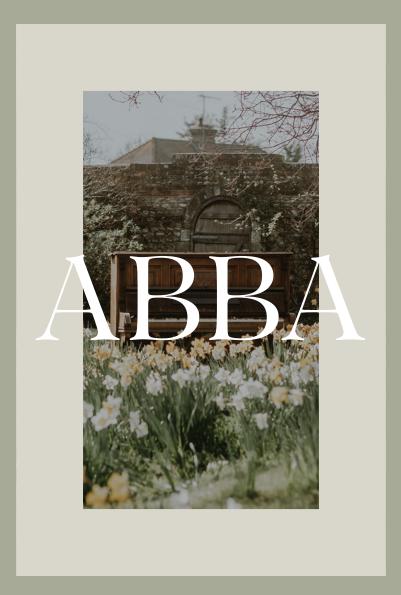
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INTRODUCTION

What is your name? This single question has laid the foundations for countless relationships to form. It is relevant no matter the place, culture, or time period in which it is asked. It is the question that allows communication to begin, conversation to flow, and connection to build. Once someone's name is known, every other fact learned about them is attached back to their name. *Brad is a proud grandfather. Deb is a compassionate mother. Susan is a hard worker.* Names define us and hold in themselves the defining qualities of who we are. And the names of God are no different.

Many people begin their relationship with God by asking, "God, who are you?" Thankfully, we can find the answer to that question in Scripture. God reveals His character, attributes, plans, purposes, and holiness to us through His Word—the Bible. He has most clearly revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus, who walked on the earth as fully man and fully God. But God also reveals Himself to us through other means. One of those means is the names He is called in Scripture. Scripture includes hundreds of names for God. This book contains in-depth descriptions of fifty of the most-used names of God in Scripture. Some names are ascribed to God the Father, some to Jesus the Son, and some to the Holy Spirit. Each one reveals a unique facet of who our triune God is and how He works. There are many ways in which you can use this book. Perhaps it will serve as a helpful study resource during times of Bible reading and prayer, or maybe it will sit on your bedside table, readily available for the moments you need to be encouraged and reminded of the truth. However you decide to use this book, knowing, studying, and meditating on the names of God will help you grow, not only in your knowledge of God but in your personal relationship with Him. This is because the more we know God, the more we love Him. And what better way to get to know Him than by exploring His names—the very names revealed in Scripture.

May you know God more truly and love Him more deeply each time you open this resource to explore His names.



What comes into your mind when you think of the word "father"? What emotions do you feel? Maybe you feel a sense of warmth as you think of your father's arms hugging you tight. Maybe you feel the sting of sadness as you recall the sound of your father's car driving away, never to return. Maybe you feel a rush of anxiety as you remember the voice of the yelling father who hurt you. Or maybe you feel the ache of longing for the father you never knew.

The Bible calls God Abba, or Father. God is unlike the fathers of this world. Even the best father we could think of pales in comparison to the Father that God is.

The fathers of this world will fail us, but God never will.

He is not a father who hurts His children. He is not a father who abandons His children. He is not a father who is unable to be known by His children.

God is a Father who loves His children deeply and unconditionally.

While God loves all of His creation, only those who have a relationship with Him are considered His children. Romans 8:15–17 tells us that when we come to know Jesus, we are adopted as God's children. We become sons and daughters of the God

of the universe. Now, whenever we think of God, our hearts cry out with joy, "Abba, Father!"

This relationship of sonship is a permanent relationship. When we come to faith in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family forever. Because the grace of Christ secures our position as God's children, we do not ever have to fear that we will lose God as our Father. We have received forgiveness and mercy through Christ, and this means we never have to be afraid that our Father will be mad at us when we mess up or that He will kick us out of His family for struggling with the same sin over and over again. Our position in God's family is a position that can never be taken away. He is ours, and we are His, forever.

As a good and loving Father, God has given gifts to His children. One of these gifts is simply a relationship with Him. We are known by God and have the opportunity to know God more and more as we study His Word. As we learn who God is through His Word, we see that He is a Father who is always with us—who cares for us when we feel broken and gives us His peace and strength. The character of God encourages us to run to Him when we are afraid, just like a little child runs to her father. Who God is reminds us that we can depend on Him and trust Him. All the best qualities found in earthly fathers are found in our heavenly Father—except, with our heavenly Father, these qualities are everlasting.

But one of the best gifts we have is a gift not fully received yet—an inheritance. In many families, especially in biblical times, fathers promise their children that they will one day receive the family's inheritance. In the same way, each of us who belongs to God receives an inheritance. This is not an inheritance of worldly gain but eternal gain — this inheritance is eternal life with our heavenly Father. While this inheritance is promised to us, we will not receive the fullness of this inheritance until Christ returns. One day, we will see our Father face-to-face and will dwell with Him for all of eternity.

Though our earthly relationship with our fathers may be painful, strained, or nonexistent, we have a relationship with our Abba, who cares for us, loves us, and remains with us. No matter how our earthly fathers make us feel,

we can remember and rest in the truth that we are wrapped in an eternal embrace with our heavenly Father.

Scripture for further study MARK 14:36, ROMANS 8:15–17, GALATIANS 4:1–7