

Daily Bread Living

“Give us today our daily Bread”

Introduction

With this petition we turn a corner in our journey through the Lord’s Prayer. In the first half of the prayer, Jesus gave us three petitions to pray that directed our attention toward God our Father. In the second half of this prayer, we are taught to pray about ourselves and for others. We will be praying for provision (Give us our daily bread), Pardon (Forgive our sins) and for protection (Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from the evil one).

There are two words that characterize this prayer. The first half is characterized by the word “your” and the second half is characterized by the word “us or our.”

We will combine the last two petitions, which will enable us to cover the second half of the prayer as three petitions. With that understanding we will be petitioning God for provisions, pardon, and protection. These three are concerned with the present needs, the past sins, and the future conflicts with the devil.

Prayer is adoration but it is also specific, definite asking.

Absolute dependence on God for everything

- A. “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.” Isaiah 57:15
- B. The Father whose name we hallowed, His kingdom we desire to come and His will we long to see fulfilled, we are dependent upon God for them all. Likewise, the conflict we will face, the temptation we will go through and the battles of life that we will confront, we are dependent on God for these also.
- C. Relating every detail of life to God in this way teaches us that nothing is too small to bring to God.

This prayer is also a confession of our faith that God’s ability is beyond our needs

- A. We need to take hold of God’s willingness to give.
 - 1. “Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding, abundant, above all we ask or think.” Ephesians 3:20
 - 2. “God is able to make all grace abound toward you.” 2 Corinthians 9
 - 3. “Once God has spoken, twice I have heard this, power belongs to God.” Psalm 62:11
- B. This prayer does not say “give me” but it says, “give us...”

This prayer deals with our essential needs of life

- A. Jesus places a priority on bread.
 - 1. It refers to everything nonspiritual that we need to live and cope with life.

- 2. Bread in Scripture is a symbol of all the material needs of life.
- B. The petition is a reference to essential nourishment of the whole man.
- C. Remember that we are asking for bread not cake.
- D. All these things help us further God's plan for our life.
- E. The truth is, it is extremely difficult to cope spiritually when we are hungry, thirsty, tired, deep in debt, going without sleep, etc.
 - 1. We are a trichotomy.
 - 2. Notice how God dealt with Elijah after Mt. Carmel.
 - 3. Perhaps Jesus is also reminding us of people who are hungry.

This prayer expresses our trust in God's method of giving

- A. God gives us "daily bread."
 - 1. Yesterday's strength is useless for today.
 - 2. We should expect to meet God through the avenues of each day.
- B. This prayer says nothing about tomorrow, next week or next month.
 - 1. Our spiritual life is not fed on a storage plan.
 - 2. The principle of God's giving is "day by day."

Four steps to Daily Bread Living

- A. Gratitude to God for all His blessing.
 - 1. "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you." Deuteronomy 8:10
 - 2. "But who am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." 1 Chronicles 29:14
 - 3. "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." Psalm 145:16
- B. Contentment with what God has already provided.
 - 1. Pray for your needs not your greed.
 - 2. Illustration: When Jesus does the cooking.
- C. Confidence that God will meet my need day by day.
- D. Generosity toward those who are less fortunate.

Conclusion

- A. The purpose of this petition is to teach us thankfulness and gratitude. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. Since you are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us be thankful." Hebrews 12:28
- B. It is also the purpose of this prayer to show our daily dependence on God. "Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die; Remove me far from vanity and lies; Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with food convenient for me." Proverbs 30:7-8

