

Matthew 6:11

9 Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father, who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Review

Prayer is amazing because it can mold your life and the lives of the people you pray for. It's incredible that we can talk to God and he listens and acts on our behalf. The more we pray the lighter our burdens and battles become.

1 John 5:14

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Job 22:27 You will pray to Him, and He will hear you;

And you will pay your vows. *(He'll help you do what you've promised.)*

The Lord's prayer can be broken into two sections. Verses 9 and 10 focus on matters that especially concern God; the glory or _____ of His name, the coming of His _____, and the accomplishing of His _____. Verses 11, 12, and 13 focus on the needs of the one who is praying; the _____ of life, personal _____ of sin, and _____ over trial and temptation. It is important that we put God and His needs first, this better prepares us to talk to Him about our own needs. We should faithfully test our personal prayer requests with God's priorities.

If God grants us what we ask for will it _____ His name, _____
His kingdom, or _____ His will on earth.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.

Matthew 16:21-23 21 From that time Jesus began to point out to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem and to suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised up on the third day. 22 And *yet* Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s purposes, but men’s.”

Effective prayer is linked to a dedicated and obedient life, which can be accomplished when we put God first. Warren Wiersby tells us that one of the most important parts of effective prayer is that it helps us gain a deeper relationship with the Father. This means:

_____ the Father
_____ Him better through His Word
_____ with Him
_____ His will
_____ to please Him

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much.

John 15:7 If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

The Lord’s Prayer gives us a pattern that we can use as a guide when we pray.

Give

Matthew 6:11 **Give** us this day our daily bread.

Prayer and stewardship go together and must never be separated. We need to make good use of the answers to prayer God graciously gives us. We are stewards of the blessings the Father sends day after day. In the ancient world, a steward was a person in charge of the master’s possessions. He or she had the responsibility of guarding those possessions, using them for profit and pleasure of the master, and keeping

accurate accounts for the master to examine. Although a steward's position was a privileged one, it came with a great deal of responsibility, for the inevitable day of reckoning always came.

The Lord created a wonderful world for our employment and enjoyment, and we must not carelessly waste God's gracious gifts.

1 Timothy 6:16-19 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18** *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

We are God's stewards, not only of the physical blessings of His "old creation," but also of the spiritual blessings of the "new creation" to which we belong as followers of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

One day we will have to give an account of our stewardship before the Lord, so we had better be faithful.

Romans 14:10-12 But *as for* you, why do you judge your brother *or sister*? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother *or sister* with contempt? For we will all appear before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord, to Me every knee will bow,

And every tongue will give praise to God.”

12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

“Give us this day our daily bread.” The word, *give*, in this request reminds us that we are stewards by God's grace.

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

We see God's grace in *what* God gives us as well as in *the way* God gives it, and we must use these gifts for the good of others and the glory of God. That's what

stewardship is all about. The Lord is not obligated to give us anything, yet “in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

Psalms 145:16 You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Within ourselves we are bankrupt and without God’s grace there would be no stewardship. Everything comes from God. (W.W. Wiersbe)

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given to You.

Daily Bread

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our **daily bread**.

Physical Needs

Bread was the basic sustenance of life in many ancient cultures. It represents all that we need to sustain life as we serve the Lord. When we ask God for our bread, we are asking Him to supply our basic needs. Martin Luther said, “Everything for the preservation of this life is bread, including food, a healthy body, good weather, house, home, wife, children, good government, and peace.”

Luke 11:5-13

5 And He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 because a friend of mine has come to me from a journey and I have nothing to serve him’; 7 and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.’ 8 I tell you, even if he will not get up and give him *anything just* because he is his friend, yet because of his shamelessness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened. 11 Now which one of you fathers will his son ask for a fish, and instead of a fish, he will give him a snake? 12 Or he will even ask for an egg, *and his father* will give him a scorpion? 13 So if you, *despite* being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

In the ancient world, asking for daily bread was very relevant. Commonly, laborers were paid on the very day that they worked. The pay was usually quite low, and it only provided enough to purchase food for that day. It was almost impossible to save money. This prayer would have given these day laborers great hope. God would meet their needs for the day, just as he did the day before.

Most of us have enough food stored up for at least a week and savings in the bank to take care of us in an emergency, even with that we still need to pray this petition and possibly even more so. We need to pray it to remind ourselves that God is our provider and we are dependent on Him.

Acts 17:25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

God is the one who meets our needs, because of this, we should not be anxious or worried about the future. This doesn't mean we shouldn't plan, we should. However, when we do, we must trust and submit our plans to God.

James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. For you are just a vapor that appears for a little while, and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

God is the one who speaks and our bread comes. He speaks and a job opens up right when it is needed. He speaks and there is strength and energy to work. When God speaks, provisions become available in times of need. He makes sure His children's needs are met.

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I will not be in need.

This petition of the Lord's Prayer teaches us to come to God in a spirit of humble dependence asking Him to provide what we need and to sustain us from day to day. We are not given license to ask for great riches, but we are encouraged to make our needs known to Him each day, trusting he will provide.

If we find that God's hand seems to be invisible to us and that we cannot discern His providential intrusion into our lives, that may be due partly to the way we pray. We have

a tendency to pray in general. When we pray in general, the only way we will see the hand of God's providence is in general. As we enter into prayer, this conversation and communion with God, and put our petitions before Him, pouring out our souls and our needs specifically, we see specific answers to our prayers. Our Father has invited us to go to Him and ask Him for our daily bread. He will not fail to provide it. (R.C. Sproul)

Spiritual Needs

Though the petition for bread refers to our physical needs, it also refers to our spiritual needs. We can discern this by how Jesus uses the word in the Gospels.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty.

We need Jesus more and more each day, and therefore, we should cry out for him.

James 4:8 And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to him.

One of the ways we draw near God is in prayer, seeking to know him and his presence more.

God's Word is our bread.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"

Like David, we should constantly petition that God would open our eyes to see wonderful things from his law.

Ps 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law.

Christ also uses food, in general, to refer to doing God's will.

John 4:32-34 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

We must ask God for opportunities to share the gospel, to disciple, and to serve others. Our bread is Jesus, his Word, and his works.

Application

Why do we need to pray each day for our daily bread?

Can you think of a time God provided physical or spiritual bread for you? How did he meet your needs?

How can one increase their desire to grow spiritually?