

Subject: *Our Daily Bread*
Scripture: *Matthew 6:9-13*

A little girl was trying her best to memorize the Lord's Prayer. She said, "Our Father, which art in heaven, how does He know my name?" It is pretty amazing that we can talk to our Heavenly Father about anything, anytime, anywhere, and realize that He already knows our needs. Focus your attention on this: "Give us this day our daily bread."

The Lord's Prayer is a Model Prayer:

- 1) A Christian prayer – (*Our Father*) The first three requests focus on our Father – *thy name...thy kingdom...thy will*. The second three requests focus on our needs – *give us...forgive us...lead us*
- 2) A concise prayer – less than 70 words – The most important thing in prayer is not its length, but its depth. Most of Jesus' own prayers were short.
- 3) A comprehensive prayer – this prayer covers the past, the present, and the future; it covers both physical needs and the spiritual needs
- 4) A convenient prayer – this prayer is for every day and for every time of day; on one hand, it is a morning prayer (*Give us this day our daily bread...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*); it is also a prayer for the close of the day (*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*).
- 5) A challenging prayer – This prayer means we must line up with God and His will or we are praying like a hypocrite. We must obey Him and want His will to be done in our life.
- 6) A confident prayer – When we pray like this, we know we are praying in the will of God and whenever we pray in His will, we can rest assured He will answer.
1 John 5:14-15 *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done on earth. - Robert Law

1. In prayer we demonstrate our humility

We offer our prayers to God not to inform Him, not to advise Him, not to demand of Him, but to tell Him that we depend on Him for everything. Prayer is our "Declaration of Dependence." When we forget to pray for our daily bread, we reveal that we are independent, indifferent, or ignorant, or all three. There was a sign posted in the cafeteria of a Christian school with these words: "Where He leads me, I will follow. What He feeds me, I will swallow."

Jesus taught us that prayer is like a child going to His earthly father. No matter how old you are, see yourself as a little child going to your Heavenly Father.
Matthew 7:7-11 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

2. In prayer we communicate our needs

Adlai Stevenson once said: “Understanding human needs is half the job of meeting them.” The other half is the ability to meet them. God covers both. He understands our needs better than we do, and He is the only One who can meet them.

The Bible says that God already knows our needs even before we pray.

Matthew 6:7-8 *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. If God already knows what we need, then why pray? Because prayer is God’s appointed way of meeting our needs. **James 4:2** Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

God gives us desires that only He can satisfy. God is the great provider. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. He is the great giver, the great satisfier. God always provides the needs of His people wherever they are. God satisfied in needs of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 1:29** *And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. God satisfied every need of His people, Israel. He fed them manna in the wilderness and led them to a land flowing with milk and honey.*

“Give us this day our DAILY bread.” This sounds strange to people in America because many of us have a week’s supply of groceries or more on hand. This is the only place this word is found. It means “enough for today.” God gave His people just enough manna for each day. When we pray it in the morning, we ask God to meet the needs of that day. When we pray it in the evening, we ask God to meet the needs of the next day. Remember the Jewish way of keeping time was from sundown to sundown the next day.

God is able to meet our needs and much more. **Philippians 4:19** *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us....* When God blesses us with more than we need, He is giving something to share. If I only need one loaf of bread and I receive two loaves. My extra loaf is not for storing, but for sharing.

Now praying for our needs is no excuse for laziness. God feeds the birds of the air, but He doesn’t throw it in the nest. **2 Thessalonians 3:10** *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.* Prayer is no substitute for work, and work is no substitute for prayer. If you have a job, it came from God.

3. In prayer we eliminate our worries

When we pray “Give us this day our daily bread,” that means we don’t have to worry. One man hired someone to do his worrying for him. His friend heard about it and said, “What does he charge for that?” “\$1,000 a month.” How are you going to pay that kind of money.” “I don’t know; that’s his worry.”

*Said the robin to the sparrow,
I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so.*

*Said the sparrow to the robin,
I think that it must be
They have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.*

Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. Our economy has been shaky, and this prayer may take on a much deeper meaning to a lot of people if the economy gets worse. When we gratefully accept the Lord's blessings with contentment, that's a powerful testimony!