

**PRAYER FOR OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS**

**Intro:** Jesus taught us in the first three petitions that God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will take precedence in our lives.

Only for praying for these needs do we go on to pray for our other needs. The fourth petition deals with physical needs.

Why do physical needs come before the need for forgiveness and deliverance from temptation and evil?

**I. A CONFESSION OF DEPENDENCE**

A. Jesus teaches us that we are dependent on God for our entire earthly existence.

-We pray for earthly physical bread.

-This stands for what is necessary for the support of our bodies and earthly life (Deut.8:3, Prov. 30:8).

-We are taught to pray for these things because we are dependent on God for all things (I Cor. 6: 19,20, Luke 12).

B. The petition is in the plural.

-“Give us this day our daily bread.”

-It is confession that we have a right to our daily bread: all earthly things we need are ours. Why? (I Cor. 3:23)

-Jesus teaches us to pray not just for ourselves, but for one another in the church.

C. “Give...”

-Man does not live by bread alone.

-But he does not live by all his own efforts and labor.

-We look to our heavenly Father alone to give us health and strength and all that we need.

a. He is able because he is sovereign.

b. He is willing as our loving Father who will give all that we need for body and soul.

**II. A CONFESSION OF PROPER PRIORITIES.**

A. It is a matter of the heart.

-What is our chief desire in all of life? Is it to have an abundance of things or is it to glorify God?

-For what do you live and work? What do you think about and desire?

-Jesus teaches us clearly in Luke 12:13-21 that our priority must not be “the abundance of things” (vs. 15).

-Oh that we may be rich towards God (I Tim. 6:11).

B. The place of food in our lives.

-There are those who live to eat rather than eat to live. Their god is their belly.

-There is the sin of gluttony.

-There is also the sin of not eating, an obsession with how we look for others or control over our bodies.

-Our bodies are the temple of God to be cared for.

**III. A CONFESSION OF CONTENTMENT.**

A. When we pray from the heart, this petition is a prayer of contentment.

-We are not praying for luxury or excess.

-What is our response to what the Lord gives us? Are we looking at what the neighbor has and discontent w/ what we have?

-What a prayer to pray to God to give us “food convenient for us” (Prov. 30:8).

-Trust that our Father in heaven knows what is good and necessary for us: not poverty or riches (Phil.1:19).

B. For proper thanksgiving and contentment, we need the grace of God.

-We need to pray for this grace (I Tim. 6:8).

-We receive these good things with thanksgiving (I Tim. 4:3,4).

-In the way of prayer, we receive God's blessing in the giving of these things (I Tim. 4:5).