

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

“Give us this day our daily bread”

One component of the discipline of prayer is *petitioning*. A better word could be “*entreaty*” because it ascribes humility to the asker in the sight of the giver. In this request, one is aware that God is the sovereign ruler and owner. He gives - and gives generously! We can ask *and expect* God’s attentiveness to our needs because he has faithfully provided and that he promises to continue. Praying for daily bread comes out of our intimate and joyous relationship with Him. As such, we can know that He wants good things for his beloved people, he understands our need, and he is the only provider.

- Do you *believe* that God provides for his people? Do you struggle with this belief? How so?
- Write down/share three personal examples of God’s provision.
- What does this prayer teach us about the healthy way to make requests of God?
- In what ways do you ask the *wrong things* of God? What might be some of the consequences of building habits that expect God to provide *anything* we ask?
- How does God’s constant provision encourage our faith? How might this prayer reduce our worry/anxiety? (See Matthew 6:25-34)
- How can we take such provision for granted? (Ex. Numbers 11)
- DIG DEEPER: Look at Luke 11:5-13 (on right): Following Jesus’ instruction on prayer, he *immediately* highlights God’s attentiveness to our needs and God’s willingness to provide.
 - Do you ever avoid prayer because you don’t want to bother God? (How accessible is God?)
 - In 5:13, what is the *relationship* Jesus stresses? And what is the *gift* from our heavenly Father?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write the “give us each day...” prayer in your own words below.

MATTHEW 6:25-34 NASB

25 “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ...

... 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

LUKE 11:2-3, 5-13 NASB

(After the disciples asked Jesus teach them how to pray)

² And He said to them, “When you pray, say...

...‘Give us each day our daily bread.

.....

⁵ Then 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; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and 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*.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence 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 he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. ¹¹ Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ¹² Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? ¹³ If you then, 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?”