

## Lord Teach Us to Pray (Part 5)

### Now concerning Earthly Things (Mt. 6:11)

**Introduction:** Up to now Jesus has taught His disciples (and us) on what our prayers should be focused on.

*First He taught us to focus our prayers on our Father...*

*Jesus taught us to focus our prayers on His name...*

*Jesus taught us to focus my prayers on His kingdom agenda...*

*Jesus taught us to focus my prayers on His will being done on earth as it is in heaven...*

With our focus on our Father, Jesus now moves to the concerns for earthly things and our needs. Many have either forgotten or never really knew, the real purpose of prayer (Jn. 14:13) It is not to get from God, but to give glory to God! So, what is Jesus teaching us to pray for when He taught us to pray to *the Father*, “Give us *this day our daily bread*”? To understand this truth, we need to identify 5 things:

1. **The real subject:** To understand this we must first understand...
  - A. **The context** – Where this teaching is and how it relates to all the text around it.
    1. **The whole gospel of Matthew**, all 28 chapters are meant to present Christ as King.
    2. **Here in chapter 6**, Jesus is teaching us a pattern for all praying according to kingdom standards.
  - B. **The text** - We have noted Jesus’ teaching is on the focus of our praying.
    1. **Jesus has broken our praying down into two sections.** The first half dealing with God.
    2. **The second half focus on us and our needs.**
      - a. God’s glory is always the priority of our praying...
      - b. He is exalted by revealing His power and grace by providing our needs, forgiving our debts, and leading us not into temptation.
2. **The real source:** *God is source of all we have need of.* However...
  - A. **A wrong perspective here** – We don’t ever go to God making demands of Him.
    1. **Our Praying is not to be used as a means to get**, but rather as a way for God to gain glory (Jn. 14:13)
    2. **All of the petitions of this second section**, though they are directed at our essential needs, are ways in which God’s glory is revealed here on earth.
  - B. **A right perspective here** - Know God is concerned about our needs and knows them even before we mention them (Matt 6:8). (see James 4:1-3).  
Prayer prepares us for the proper use of the answer. If we know our need, and if we voice it to God, trusting Him for His provision, then we will make better use of the answer than if God forced it on us without our asking.
    1. **God cares that our physical needs are met.**
    2. **This is first a symbolic request** – “daily bread” is really a symbol for all our physical needs (food, clothing, shelter). (*Ps 33:18-19; Ps 34:9; Prov. 3:9,10; 10:3*)
3. **How does He do it?** (Mt. 7:7-11)

- Sometimes By His own hand... (6:25-34)
- Sometimes through the hands of others. (Col 3:12-14; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 *Pe. 1:5-8; 1 Jn. 3:17*)

4. **It is a spiritual request** – This request for personal needs is intensely spiritual in nature. Even though we are here making request for ourselves, the spotlight still rests squarely in the face of our God. Just as prayer is about adoration, devotion, and worship, it is also asking, dependence, and expressing our desperate need for God.

3. **The real sense:** By praying this simple prayer, I am in a sense, saying that I believe in certain things.

A. **I believe in God’s power** – When I pray for my Father to meet my needs, I am proclaiming my faith in His power to do just that. (Job 42:2; Luke 1:37; Eph. 3:20). He is able and He will see to it that your needs are met.

B. **I believe in God’s promises** – When I pray this simple prayer, I am confessing

my faith in the promises God has made to His children. (Psa. 37:25; Phil. 4:19;

Matt. 6:25-34). *He has promised to do it and He will do it!*

C. **I believe in God’s personality** – When we ask God for the daily needs of life, We are humbly acknowledging His willingness to give.

Look at all the great gifts God has already given; especially consider the gift of His Son Jesus, John 3:16. (*The gift of His grace, forgiveness, salvation, eternal life, the blessing of being His own, etc.*)

4. **The real seeker:** Not only does this prayer honor the Lord by worshiping Him as the great Giver. It also expresses the total dependence of the child of God upon his heavenly Father.

A. **It is a prayer of confession** – “*I can’t meet my own needs, so I must seek out my Father daily, who can.*” (6:8,33)

Does this relieve me of all responsibility of providing for my needs or my family’s needs? (Gen. 3:19; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thes. 3:10) NO! Because one of God’s provisions is, He has provided me a way to work and take care of what I can...

When I pray this prayer, I am not resting in my own ability to work and put food on my table (Phil 4:13; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Cor. 15:10). If we have anything; if we are anything; it is because of the gracious working of God in our lives.

B. **It is a prayer of confidence** – This is not a request for God to meet needs that have not yet arisen (Mt. 6:31-34). It is an expression of faith in God that says “*I believe as I seek my Father daily, He will take care of me one day at a time.*” (Mt. 6:34)

C. **It is a prayer of contentment** – This simple prayer says, “*I am willing to accept the things you will send into my life today.*” My duty is to trust Him to do in my life exactly what needs to be done day by day, Rom. 8:28

5. **The real schedule:** This day our daily bread... it is a day-to-day schedule. “One day at a time Father, I accept what You have provided.” (Prov. 6:6; 1 Tim.

6:6-8; Heb. 13:5-6; Phil. 4:10-13). Nothing says, “I trust you Lord,” like perfect

contentment on the part of His children! *The prayer of Agur in Pro. 30:7-8*