

Lord Teach Us to Pray (Part 6)

The Depth of this Prayer

(Mt. 6:11)

Introduction: As we come into this Sunday, we are in the midst of a weekend that celebrates the freedom, liberty, and independence of the greatest nation on earth! How exciting and blessed we are to be living in America today. With all of our flaws, we still are so blessed. We as Children of God, like Americans can live in freedom having been liberated from sin, and independence from the flesh as we seek to live our new lives by the Spirit! As believers, and kingdom people, like citizens, we must learn how to properly use that liberty, freedom, and independence we have been blessed with. To do that we must learn how to communicate with the Father, by the Spirit, through Jesus our Lord. Jesus is teaching the disciples how to do that by teaching them how to pray. Jesus is teaching us that by coming to our heavenly Father in daily prayer, we are expressing both our desperate need for Him, and our faith in the one who can meet EVERY need no matter what that need is! While daily bread is symbolic for everything necessary for the preservation of life, this is a much deeper prayer than it seems... On the surface, this simple request, “*Give us this day our daily bread,*” is a simple straight forward request.

However, when you think about it, this prayer is very large in its scope.

I. This is a conditional prayer :

Jesus shows us there are conditions in which we should daily pray for God to provide us our daily bread.

A. The first condition is found in what is bread?

1. To the Hebrew mind, bread was the principal food of life. To cut bread would be like cutting life itself. That is where we get the New Testament expression of breaking bread (Matthew 26:26; Acts 2:42; 20:7)
2. So, to ask for bread is to ask God to supply all of our needs, anything we need to sustain and to strengthen us for life.

B. The second condition is that God has promised to take care of our needs.

1. *Now, if God has made this promise (and He has), we have a right to ask Him to fulfill it. (Ps 37:3 -20)*
2. Many believe most of the promises found in the Bible are spiritual. While this is true, it is not to the exclusion of the physical. (2 Cor. 9:6-10)
3. *David’s conclusion in the matter... (Ps. 37:25) God takes care of His own.*
4. In 1 Kings 17 – We see this same principle played out... (God takes care of His own!)
5. We see this promise time and again (Ps. 33:18-19; 34: 9-10; prov. 3:9-10; 10:3; Mt. 7:7-11; 6:25-34) God takes care of His own. However...

C. The third condition is, God is committed to the care of His own, but He is not bound to meet the needs of everyone – only of those who are His own.

This is why it is so important we know we are a child of God!

This is a conditional prayer – conditioned on the promise God has made only to His own, giving us the right to ask Him to fulfill that promise.

II. This is a communal prayer:

1. Notice the two words “*us*” and “*our*.” - This is not a prayer that can be prayed selfishly.

- a. This is not a prayer just about getting “*my*” needs met; but it is about praying for the needs of the whole family of God.

Someone has well said, Prayer is a privilege and an obligation of the Christian where we communicate with God. (1 Jn 1:9; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Js 5:15; Phil. 4:6), etc.,

- b. We are commanded to pray without ceasing and in all things (1 Thess. 5:17). As Jesus prayed for us, we are commanded to pray for one another (Jn. 17:9; Js. 5:16)

- c. **There are Some personal requirements of prayer** (Ps. 66:18; Jn 14:13; 1 Jn 5:14).

- d. **This kind of praying is not about us**; but rather how God provides for the family of God – (**For example**) I should never have enough while my brother or sister starves. (Ac. 2:42-46; Phil. 2:4; Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 10:24).

2. **There is no room for selfishness in prayer**, as Jesus emphasizes using “*us*” and “*our*.”

This is a communal prayer – while the prayers of God’s children are precious, they should be offered one for another liberally! This is a prayer about “*us*” not “*me*.”

III. This is a comprehensive prayer: One commentator said this phrase could be expressed this way, “*Give us this day the things sufficient for our subsistence.*”

1. **This is a humble request for God our Father**, to provide everything we need to make it through day by day.

2. **If we would be in a place of contentment** and gratitude, we would have so much more peace of heart and mind, knowing that our heavenly Father was in perfect control of all the situations of our lives, and all our needs (Phil. 4:6-7).

- a. **It is not wrong to plan for the future** – (Prov. 6:6-8) The virtue of wisdom is not in being busy but in having a proper view of forthcoming needs that motivate one to action (cf. 10:5).

- b. **It is not wrong to pray for our own needs.** Heb. 4:14-15. The point being...

- c. **God did not save us just to ignore or neglect us!** We are the children of the King, and we have a right to approach the King for the things we need!

Jesus is teaching us in this model for prayer – If we ask, we will receive, Matt. 7:7-11; James 4:2b.

Conclusion: I remind us on this celebration of America weekend, how exciting and blessed we are to be living in America today. With all of our flaws, we still are so blessed to live in a land of plenty! But we don’t get what we need from our country or our government, but rather all our daily needs are met for us by our Father in heaven... So, celebrate the birth of our great nation. But, let me encourage you to come to the Father and tell Him about the needs that are in your life. Never be afraid; never be ashamed; and never limit your praying to “*large matters.*”

Come to Him and call on His Name, believing that He cares, that He hears and that He will answer you for His glory! Jer. 33:3; Jn. 14:13-14; Mt. 21:22