

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Daily Bread



Luke 11:3

-- Read Luke 11:1-4

-- Pray

-- **Review**

-- Part 1 – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

-- How we pray matters.

-- The Lord’s Prayer is so important because it is God’s perfect framework for prayer.

-- Because Christ offers this prayer as the model for all prayer, everything we need to know about prayer is here.

-- Part 2 – “Our Father in Heaven” (v. 2a)

-- Main idea: Pray affectionately, like a child to His Father.

-- All prayer begins with the knowledge that God cares.

-- Part 3 – “Hallowed Be Your Name”

-- Main Idea: Pray reverently as a worshipper to his God.

-- The ultimate purpose of all prayer is to bring glory to God.

-- Effective prayer is, therefore, God-centered prayer where self is removed and God is revered.

-- Part 4 – “Your Kingdom Come”

-- Main Idea: Pray victoriously as a warrior to his King.

-- “Your Kingdom come” is a cry to battle.

-- We glorify God and engage in the battle for His Kingdom when we...

1.) Pray for redemption in Christ.

2.) Pray for renewal in Christ.

3.) Pray for the return of Christ.

The prayer is divided into two halves. While the whole prayer is about God and His glory, the first half focuses on affirmations about God and His Kingdom, whereas the second half, which we will begin to examine today, concerns people and our supplications. Thus, Christ’s pattern for prayer begins by acknowledging

God as our Holy Father, Master, and King. And it continues with our supplications for His provision, pardon, and protection.

In other words, our personal petitions for provision—“*Give us each day our daily bread*”—for pardon—“*Forgive us our sins*”—and protection—“*Lead us not into temptation*”—must be rooted in the glory of God and the coming of His kingdom.

-- Big Idea: Pray reliantly, as a seeker to his perfect Source.

-- “*Give us each day our daily bread*” urges us to pray in at least four ways... We will call them the “A, B, C, and D” of supplication.

A – Ask for assistance.

-- The world says “Do it yourself,” Jesus says, “Ask for assistance.”

-- “*Give us each day our daily bread*” is a request, not a demand.

-- Humility is at the very foundation of this prayer.

-- It is the prayer those who acknowledge our desperate need for God’s care and call upon Him to sustain us.

-- It is an understanding that the help we most need only comes from God.

-- This prayer is a frequent theme of the Psalms.

-- Psalm 30:10-12 – “*Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help.*”

-- Psalm 40:17 – “*I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.*”

-- Psalm 109:26-27 – “*Help me, O LORD my God; save me in accordance with your love. Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O LORD, have done it.*”

-- God hears us and answers us when we humbly ask Him for assistance.

-- Psalm 120:1 – “*I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me.*”

-- Psalm 145:18 – “*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*”

B – Be content with the basics.

-- The world says “Have it all,” Jesus says, “Be content with the basics.”

-- This prayer for “daily bread” is a simple, not extravagant, request.

-- This is no health and wealth “prosperity gospel” prayer.

-- There is no hint of that God is to be viewed like a genie in a bottle. We are not attempting to talk God into granting us some unnecessary worldly extravagance. While God may very well choose to give us worldly abundance, Jesus certainly doesn’t teach us to pray for it.

- “Give this day our daily bread” is a prayer for the basic essentials of life.
 - Proverbs 30:7-9 – *“Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.”*
 - Philippians 4:11-12 – *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”*
- It is a prayer for essential physical needs.
 - Martin Luther wrote that bread was the symbol for everything necessary for the preservation of this life, such as “food, health, good weather, a house, a home, wife, children, good government, and peace.”
- It is a prayer for essential spiritual needs.
 - It is a prayer for the guidance of God’s Word.
 - Matthew 4:3-4 – *“The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.””*
 - “Give us this day our daily bread” is not only a prayer for food to eat but for the Word of God, which is daily nourishment for our spirits.
- It is a prayer for the fullness of Christ in us.
 - John 6:49-51 – *“Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

C – Call upon God with confidence.

- As we consider the Lord’s Prayer, we are blessed to consider not only what it affirms but also what it rejects.
 - “Our Father” is a rejection of impersonal religion. We cannot truly call upon God as our Father in Heaven if we are clinging to a cold or distant faith.
 - “Hallowed be your name” is a rejection of flippant, irreverent, or self-centered prayer. We cannot really pray “hallowed be your name” if we pray prayers for our own glory and not God’s.

- “Your kingdom come is a rejection of lazy or individualistic living. I cannot pray “Your Kingdom come” and, at the same time, be apathetic about or uncommitted to God’s will.
- “Give us this day our daily bread” is a rejection of worry.
- In it we have already confessed that God is our loving Father in Heaven, that His name is hallowed above all things, and that our purpose in life is to pursue His Kingdom in all things.
- To call upon this God is to cast away all worry.
- Matthew 6:26-27 – *“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”*
- Philippians 4:6-7 – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Please hear this and know it today: The same God who fills the heavens with His glory fills our bodies with His Spirit, and He who placed the stars in the sky has placed His love in our hearts. The almighty God of all Creation is the careful and compassionate caretaker of our souls. God not only commands the whole universe, but He cares very deeply about you.

- Luke 12:6-7 – *“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*
- Nahum 1:7 – *“The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”*

Before the rains fell on Noah, God provided an ark for His people... As Abraham held the knife high, God provided a ram for the sacrifice... When famine swallowed the land, God provided Joseph a dream... When Israel was captive in Egypt, God provided plagues upon Pharaoh... When Israel was trapped by the sea, God provided an escape... When Israel wandered in the wilderness, God provided manna from heaven... When Goliath taunted all Israel, God provided David a stone... When widow’s sons would become slaves, God provided a tiny jar of oil that overflowed an abundance... When Jonah was thrown to the sea, God provided a whale for his rescue... When the wedding was ruined, God provided wine from mere water... When the 5000 were hungry, God provided a feast... Though the disciples journeyed with nothing, God provided a harvest of

salvation... Though sin had devastated the world, God provided us a Savior... Though Jesus hung on the cross, God provided resurrection...

Therefore, though dead in transgressions, God provides us saving faith... Though powerless by ourselves, God provides us His Spirit... Though objects of wrath, God provides us His Kingdom... Though unrighteous at best, God provides His very best. Because we were sinful and separated, God has provided us Jesus Christ.

- Can there be any question that our God provides for His people with an abundance of grace?
- He provides for our every need, and especially our greatest need—salvation from sin and reconciliation to Him.
- Romans 8:31-32 – *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”*

Does this mean that we will get from God everything we think we want in this life? No. But what it does mean is that, when we arrive on heaven’s blissful shores, we won’t care one whit about the worldly things we thought we wanted in this life but didn’t receive. It means that our God lavishes upon us an abundance of all that truly matters both now and forevermore. On the other side of this mortal life, we will see once and for all that, in Christ, our God is providing for us *“infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope”* (Ephesians 3:20, NLT).

- Therefore, in praying *“Give us each day our daily bread,”* our Lord is teaching us to call upon Him with complete confidence that he hears us, and cares for us, and answers with eternal abundance.
- Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

D – Declare your dependence.

- The Lord’s Prayer is a declaration of dependence upon God.
 - It is not a gimmick that happens to work for us; it is a humble affirmation that God is the lone giver of every good thing.
 - We ask for assistance, praying *“Give us,”* because every good thing we have is a gift from God.

- James 1:16-17 – *“Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.”*
- Psalm 16:2 – *“I said to the LORD, ‘You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.’”*
- We pray “...each day...” because we need God in the utmost way every moment of every day.
 - Acts 17:28 – *“In [God], we live and move and have our being.”*
 - Colossians 1:15-17 – *“All things were created by [the Son] and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*
 - John 15:5 – *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*
- Depending on anything other than God is futile and deadly.

Think about it: Adam and Eve trusted in a serpent, and thereby brought the sin’s abysmal curse upon mankind... Pharaoh trusted in his empire, and he brought devastating plagues upon Egypt... Peter trusted in his own strength and thereby denied Jesus Christ three times... Judas trusted in false teachers, and thereby betrayed the Messiah to the cross.

We could go on, but the question remains, where has trusting in anything other than God really ever gotten anyone? You may have gotten that promotion at work by trusting in your own charisma, but did that promotion bring you the peace of God? You may have landed that boyfriend by trusting in your looks, but was that relationship really filled with the love of Christ? And you may have gotten that check by trusting in the government, but did that money motivate you to work for God’s Kingdom with all your heart?

Please don’t get me wrong, in and of themselves there is nothing wrong with promotions, boyfriends, or government assistance that is sincerely needed. However, we must confess that placing our trust in things such as those has benefits that are temporary at best. That is, trusting in the things of the world or in the love of self will never amount to anything that matters in eternity. In fact, only calamity ultimately comes to those who refuse to trust in the Lord.

- Psalm 146:3-4 – *“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.”*
- Conversely, it is an unmitigated joy and privilege to depend upon the Lord.

- Psalm 125:1 – *“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.”*
- Isaiah 26:3-4 – *“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.”*
- Isaiah 40:31 (KJV) – *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*
- Above all else, declaring dependence upon God means trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 3:22-24 – *“Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*
 - God’s faithfulness and care culminate in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - No one can claim to trust in God if he has not received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Everyone relies on someone or something. The only people wise and blessed are those who declare their dependence upon God and the grace He gives through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- If we would pray with peace and live with joy, then we must boldly declare our complete and blissful dependence upon our Father in Heaven.

-- **Summary**

- Praying “Give us each day our daily bread” urges us to pray reliantly, as a seeker to his perfect Source.
- Praying reliantly means asking for assistance, being content with the basics, calling upon the Lord with confidence, and declaring dependence upon our Father in Heaven who has given us His Son.

-- **Memory Verse**

- Proverbs 3:5-6 – *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*