

## **Give us this day our daily bread**

Up to this point in our study of the Lord's Prayer, we have greeted our Father in heaven, praised Him for who He is, and asked for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. Our requests have been focused on God and His glory, His kingdom, and His will. The language of the prayer now shifts to address the needs of humankind.

When we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," we acknowledge that God is our Provider. He knows our needs. He sends the rain that causes crops to grow. He gives wisdom to agriculturists, bakers, beekeepers, cheesemakers, chefs, farmers, fishers, food producers of all kinds, ranchers, shepherds, water well drillers and pump installers. He supplies nourishment for today, both physically in our bodies and spiritually in our souls.

In John 6:35-40, Jesus tells us "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

We pray for His provision and trust He will provide. We acknowledge our great need for His help, His strength, His wisdom, and His salvation. In the process, we release control and our desire for things to be done our way, on our schedule. As we humbly talk with God, we can also let go of our worries about daily life and the "what ifs" that plague us. We can trust Him with the details.

The Bible tells us God delights in giving good gifts to His children. We need to seek Him and His kingdom first. Philippians 4:6-7 says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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."

Take time to

- Tell God your worries and fears about today
- Thank Him for what He has provided for you this day
- Consider how you might show God's love to others who have greater needs than you do—they are included in the "us" and "our" of this petition

Pray "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread...."