

**PP Fresh Bread For Living Well *Becoming a People of Prayer***

8/31/2008 Part 10

**PP** Illus      “Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it, ***God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.***”

God wants us to obey His will and do the work of His kingdom and He provides all we need in order to do it

***“Give us this day our daily bread,”***                      **Matthew 6:11**

**PP 1-This Bread Cannot Come From Ourselves**

**PP** ***“Give us this day our daily bread,”***

This is an extremely humbling prayer when you understand its force

We are asking for daily bread and we will soon see what that bread is, but for now we can know that it means everything we need to live out the will of God in His kingdom

But immediately we learn from Jesus Himself, right at the very beginning, the first word of this request, that we cannot provide it for ourselves

If we are to have daily bread, it must come because God has given it to us

**PP** ***“For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.”*** 1 Chr. 29:14

**PP** ***“You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.”*** Psalm 145:16

We cannot provide ourselves with spiritual nourishment

It cannot come from within us, but only from God

There is no generic equivalent, no substitute, no knock-off brand

This bread has no other source: not the world, or anyone else

Only God can give us this bread and He loves to give

**PP** Jesus tells us, ***“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”***                      **Matthew 7:11**

**PP** ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”***                      **James 1:17**

God does what He loves and enjoys, and He delights in giving

**PP** The word ***‘give’*** here means to give of one’s own choice and with good will

It is a gift that is unearned and not necessarily deserved

It is a request that God would choose to give us, out of His goodness, everything we need to live obediently and satisfactorily in the kingdom of God on earth

Jesus, the Son of God has told us to God to give to us what we need

We are to pray then with confidence that God loves to give us what we cannot get for ourselves

## **PP 2-This Bread Is For God's Community**

### ***PP "Give us this day our daily bread,"***

We are to ask that God would 'Give us' not 'Give me' daily bread

The Jews had saying that "A man should always join himself with the community in his prayers."

Every time we pray this prayer we are affirming our solidarity with one another,  
committing ourselves to help provide bread for need brothers and sisters

It is not only a request that God would provide for me, it is a commitment to be part of  
how He answers that same request for others in need

Jesus is showing us that God's blessings are to be asked for, and when received, shared  
It assumes a loving concern for the physical and spiritual welfare of others, believer or  
nonbeliever

I read recently that each country has the ability to produce enough food for its people  
Hunger is not often a problem of supply, as much as it is of distribution

When I pray for struggling relationships, I am praying for the strengthening  
nourishment of Christ through His Word to come to that couple, that family, so that they would be  
willing to live out the will of God and have the power for kingdom living

When I pray for those who do not have work, or enough income, I am praying that they  
will come in trust to God, Who can supply their needs and that they will responsibly look for work, to  
the glory of the Father

Just as I need daily providence from God in all the areas of my life, I realize that others  
do as well and that God will provide, sometimes through me

Sometimes through my encouragement with a passage of Scripture

Sometimes through my financial gifts

Sometimes through my prayers for them

This is a prayer of community, of which we each are part

We pray with others in mind and we are asking that God would give to all in that  
community, and if He chooses, to give through me

## **PP 3-This Bread Is Made Fresh Each Day**

### ***PP "Give us this day our daily bread,"***

We need to remember that Jesus was teaching a people who largely lived daily lives

Day-laborers were paid each day for the work they accomplished

Lack of refrigeration made long-term storage of perishables impossible

Bread was a daily chore of mixing and baking

The word daily is extremely difficult to translate since there is absolutely no existence of  
the Greek compound word outside of this and Luke's occurrence other than one other time

A scrap of ancient parchment was found that functioned as an ancient grocery shopping  
list

I find it comforting that since the earliest days, wives have called their husbands at work  
and asked them to stop at the store to pick up a 'few' things

It seems to be a word adapted from a housekeeper's habit of making a list of items needed for the next day's work

**PP** It can mean either 'today's bread' or 'tomorrow's bread', many preferring the latter  
Some of your Bibles may be marked with this alternate translation

The conclusion that William Barclay arrived at is that if this prayer is offered in the morning it is a prayer for that day, if offered in the evening, it is a prayer for the following day

Either translation amounts to the same truth that Jesus is teaching us

The same God Who has counted every hair on our heads, Who knows even when the most worthless bird falls to the ground, that same God cares for us, His treasured possession, the apple of His eye

God, our heavenly Father, will provide for us each day, but for that day

It is a prayer for the immediate needs of the day, not the year

A prayer of trusting dependence on Him, not luxurious independence from Him

One Rabbi put it, *'He who possesses what he can eat today, and says, "What shall I eat tomorrow?" is a man of little faith'*

It is daily bread, not bread for the week or the year

Just as the Israelites had to collect the manna each day they wandered through the wilderness, we are given what we need for that day

But Tim, I don't think I can endure this situation any longer

God promises to give you the strength you need for today

You don't understand, we are down to our last bit of reserves in our business, we can't keep making it if things don't pick up

God will provide what He has led you to do, trust in Him

Grace for us when we are sick, even terminally, when facing stress at work, when struggling through hard relationships, God will give us what we need that day

We pray in the morning, Lord, I don't know what I will face today but I need you to provide the wisdom, the strength, the faith, the patience, the contentment, the desire, the finances, the purity or anything else I may need in order to live obediently in Your kingdom

Before our eyes close in sleep, we are learning to ask for the same thing for the known and unknowns of the next day

We are absolutely dependent on our heavenly Father whether we know it or not

This is a prayer asking our Father to provide daily, what we need in order to bring glory and honor through all the day's needs and events

Because all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Christ, He is concerned about everything-big and small-that happens in His kingdom

Our God has permanently committed Himself to providing for us, His children

**PP** *"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* **Matthew**

**6:31-34**

We can pray in confidence that God can and will give us what we need that day to live obediently in the kingdom of God here on earth

#### **PP 4-This Bread Enables Us To Live**

**PP** *“Give us this day our daily bread,”*

**PP** The word bread refers to several things:

**PP a)** It is the **physical food** that is necessary in order to live

We need to remember that if God willed it, God could make our land absolutely barren, that even with all our modern equipment and chemicals, farmers wouldn't be able to raise a crop  
How often do we pause when reaching for the food on the shelves on that store or before eating our food, God You are providing my daily bread  
The intentional remembering of God's providence and love creates unanticipated moments of worship  
What amazing providence and love You have displayed for us heavenly Father, why would I worry about what I need  
Most of us North Americans cannot truly empathize with the force behind this thought  
There is a reason why many teens in our youth group experienced my pet peeve of unfinished plates of food  
I have been to Haiti and seen the platoons of children scouring through refuse heaps the size of small hills, looking for a scrap of food or something to sell for food  
I have held little children on my lap whose distended stomachs betrayed their starvation  
Then the power of hunger and the helplessness of poverty jars our eyes open  
This is a prayer for real bread, real food to sustain our lives

**PP b)** It is the **necessities in life** that enable us to live out God's will

**PP** Martin Luther explained it as *“everything necessary for the preservation of this life is bread, including food, a healthy body, good weather, house, home, wife, children, good government, and peace”*

New designer clothing is not a necessity, either is a large savings account or a secure retirement plan

Necessities are everything we need to carry out God's will for our lives with zeal and obedience

Illus I read of a lady who was in the midst of the Christmas rush and hurriedly purchased fifty greeting cards, signed most of them and dropped them in the mail. A few days later as things slowed down, she finally read one of the cards. To her great embarrassment it said, *“This card is just to say, A little gift is on the way.”* Needless to say, about fifty disappointed friends and family never received this promised gift.

How unlike our heavenly Father Who never promises what He won't give and never fails to give us all He has promised

He will give us our daily bread, and He has given it in Himself, the Bread of Heaven

Not only does bread mean physical providence and the basic necessities of life

**PP** c) It also points to our **spiritual food** found in the word of God

**PP** This was the opinion of Augustine, who said it is a prayer for '*spiritual food, namely, the divine precepts which we are to think over and to put into practice each day*'

Friends, we are starved and stunted, unless we are daily being nourished by the Word of God

God's Word will lead every person who seriously studies it to the very feet of Christ,  
Who is the bread of heaven

**PP** "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven*" John 6:51

Our daily bread is nothing less than Christ, the bread of life

This is a prayer that God would feed our souls today with the bounty of Christ found in  
His Word

From which, and through Whom we are strengthened with the might of God Himself  
David found God's Word to be sweeter than honey; he longed for them, panting for them  
Lord, nourish our minds and our hearts as we study Your Word and meditate upon it

*In praying for daily bread we are asking that God would fulfill all our needs-physical,  
life's necessities and spiritual-so that we can best follow His will*

**PP** What have we learned here this morning?

What seemed like such a familiar prayer is actually much more than asking for food

It is asking that God would give us what we need to do His will today

Give me strength to resist temptation so I can live purely

Give me your Word so I can live like Christ

Give me a hunger and desire to follow you Lord

Give that to my brother, give that to my sister

Give through me if you will

And I will rest my heart in my trust of you! Pray!