

**Matthew 6:9-10 “This, then, is how you should pray:
‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.’”**

Bread is a universal staple food and one of the oldest foods known to mankind. Some flour, some water, add heat. Bread is found in every culture. When Jesus he teaches us to pray “Give us this day our daily bread,” Jesus is teaching about our basic needs – and Father God meeting them.

BREAD REPRESENTS THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

Psalm 104:25-28 “The ocean teems with life of every kind both great and small...Every one of these depend on you to give them daily food. You supply it and they gather it.”

This is the economy of God. God says I supply it. You gather it. It doesn't mean you sit on the couch, veg out and wait for God to just throw you money. Work is a part of God's purpose for your life. Work builds character. Bread represents what you need for physical life.

BREAD REPRESENTS GOD'S WORD.

Deuteronomy 8:3 “God humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna... to teach you that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”

God said this in the wilderness, during the exodus from Egypt after 400 years of slavery. Manna was the supernatural bread that God dropped from heaven for the people to pick up in the desert because they had nothing to eat. The word “manna” literally means “What is it?” So they ate what-is-it 3 times a day for 40 years. How many ways can you fix manna? God says you don't just need physical nourishment, you need spiritual nourishment. Just as much as you need physical food for your body, you need soul food for your soul. You need spiritual food. You need the word of God.

BREAD REPRESENTS GOD'S FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP.

1 Corinthians 10:16 “Is not the bread we break a participation in the body of Christ?”

In the Old Testament people were to bring a fellowship offering which was to include a basket of bread, unleavened bread. It was a symbol of fellowship. In the Early Church (Acts 2:46) “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” God meets our physical needs, our spiritual needs, and our relational needs. Bread is a metaphor for the church...the family of God.

BREAD REPRESENTS SALVATION.

Luke 22:19 “Jesus took a piece of bread and he gave thanks to God and he broke it and he gave it to them and he said ‘This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.’”

Jesus chose bread to represent his sacrifice in communion. Jesus took the Passover and gave it a new meaning...to help us remember – daily – we are saved by God grace through Christ.

That's the bread part...let's consider the rest of this prayer of dependence.

“GIVE US this day our daily bread” means we SEE GOD AS OUR SOURCE.

Matthew 7:11 “If you were asked by your son for bread, would you give him a stone? How much more likely is it that your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him?”

Everything is a gift from God. We don't earn air or water or sunlight or life itself. It is all a flat out gift of God's grace. And God has unlimited resources. There is nothing I need that God cannot supply.

There is enough for all the need in the world...but not enough for all the greed in the world. The reason why some don't have enough is not because it isn't available...it's because it's not shared. As a child of God and as a follower of Christ, you need to know God wants to give to you. Too often, the problem is you never ask God...and trust God as the source for all your needs in life.

“give us THIS DAY our daily bread” means we TRUST GOD FOR TODAY.

Philippians 4:6 “The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

God broke life down into bite size pieces for us...24 hour increments...to trust God for today. Life is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch. God doesn't want you worrying about anything. Why? Because you are acting like you don't have a spiritual Father in heaven who cares for you and provides for you. Instead, God wants us to pray about everything. You can worry or you can pray...and every day you're doing one or the other. Every time you worry, you're not praying. And every time you pray you're not worrying. Worry has never solved a problem, but prayer does. If you prayed as much as you worried, you would have a lot less to worry about...and see a lot more needs met.

“give us this day OUR DAILY BREAD” means we SHARE WHAT GOD SUPPLIES.

2 Corinthians 9:10-12 “(God) who supplies seed for the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

When God gives you something he always wants you to share it with everybody else. Why? Because God wants you to learn to be like him. God shares everything he's got with you. God is generous. God so loved the world that he gave. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. God says I want you to learn to love and love is all about sharing. You say, “Wait a minute! I'm not rich enough to be generous.” Oh, yes you are. No matter how much you've got you can be generous. There's a story about a woman in the Bible who only had two pennies and yet she gave them away. You can always give something. It's a myth that “I don't have enough to give.” You can always give something to God. It will bless you as you do and it will bless others so they will also thank God. Whatever you give to God, God multiplies...your talent, your energy, your time, your money, your relationships. “OUR daily bread” comes through OUR giving to God to give to others.

Remember: STS - See God as our source...Trust God for today...Share what God supplies. All we have learned in this message begins with receiving Jesus Christ into your life. In John 6:33-35, Jesus said “The true bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘from now on give us this bread.’ Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...’” For each of us, there is a hunger in our heart that only God can satisfy...every single day. “Give us this day our daily bread.” Amen.
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