

“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread!”

(07-14-13)

Let's continue our journey through the Lord's Prayer by reading aloud the Fourth Petition and Luther's explanation. **“Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven.”** *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

This petition is a change in direction for this prayer. We've just spent the first three petitions in adoration and praise of Almighty God. He is our Father, He is holy, and His Will is done in heaven and also on earth. How appropriate for us to pray and first look at the One we are praying to. One that is so deserving of our everything!

Now, as we make our first request of God, I think there are five important points we need to consider. These points are based on the actual words of the petition.

G: Give! Even in this request, we are still believing in God's power because we know He's the One in control who cares for us greatly! Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* It's not beyond our God to be concerned for our every need!

Sometimes, we think prayer is just about spiritual things, not about physical needs, but God puts these both together. He cares for us no matter who we are or what we're praying about! We need to remember, we're given all things and every one of them is good! James 1:17 says, *“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.”*

U: Us! Please note, it says, “Give Us” not “Give me!” This is totally opposite from our human nature. We sometimes have a tendency to be all about ourselves! It starts when we're small. Your mother thought it would be good for your development if another child came over to play with you, but when your guest reached out to touch one of your toys, what was your response, “MINE”!

Sometimes we're willing to help someone else only if we ourselves have everything. As God's people, we should pray that even when the economy isn't doing well, that all His children everywhere might have bread today.

Jesus set an example for us while He was on earth. He was touched deeply as He saw the hungry crowds that followed Him. He wanted to make sure that no one went hungry. He didn't spare Himself or His disciples in seeing to it that they were properly fed. But Jesus went beyond this and was willing to give His own life to the world. Acts 17:25 says, *“Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”*

TD: This Day. We must daily draw on our Father Who loves and cares for us. As the people of Israel spent time wandering in the desert after they were freed from slavery in Egypt, they got hungry. God sent manna that was to be gathered each morning. But it couldn't be saved for the next day, except before the Sabbath. They were to be reminded how God was with them each and every day!

We too have to come regularly, daily, to receive nourishment from God. To partake of His resurrection life is to feed on heavenly bread. In doing this, our hungry souls can be satisfied and filled. As we greet each day, we need to rejoice and thank God we're seeing it! Psalm 118:24, *“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”* As

you receive God's gifts, give credit to the good giver! Ask for today alone. Tomorrow is God's! It belongs to Him! Trust Him knowing He takes care of everything!

O: Our. In praying for bread, we're praying for the whole human family. We're asking God to take care of our needs and the needs of others wherever they are. We have to be concerned for others and the things that trouble them. This is what it means to show loving, Christian care and concern. We need to be Christ to those around us!

When I was confirmed many years ago, we had family and friends to lunch after church. I sat at the table in the basement between my two Baptismal sponsors and said the blessing for the meal. The words of Psalm 145:15-16 were so special then and they continue to be special now, *"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing."*

DB: Daily Bread. What is bread? It's living kernels of grain, broken, crushed, bruised, and ground into flour. Then it's mixed with other ingredients, kneaded, shaped, and allowed to rise. After it's baked, this new life of the grain gives life to those who eat it. The life of the grain is given to man through the process of death, rising, and change.

Jesus became God's grain. He was broken and bruised at Calvary. He took upon Himself our sins and the sins of all mankind. Out of this, and His death and rising, He became God's living bread for us! As Jesus said in John 6:51, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

You need bread, or rice, or meat and potatoes or whatever it is you eat to stay alive! But you can't live by bread alone! You can't live by your own power alone! You need the giver, and the bread of life!

Look to His cross and accept His forgiveness as your own. Follow Him where He leads, trusting in His goodness for you! Be filled with Him and daily share Him as the bread of life with everyone you meet!