

Prayer - Part Four
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Matthew 6:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

¹³And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- *Jesus gave us a pattern in Matthew, Chapter 6, of what prayer looks like and how it functions.*
- *What many call “The Lord’s Prayer” is not simply something one repeats, even though one could repeat it, but it provides us with seven essential qualities of prayer.*
- *Our Father* - *The intimacy that prayer is to produce.*
- *In Heaven* - *The worship that prayer is to produce.*
- *Hallowed be Your name.* - *The purity that prayer is to produce.*
- *Your Kingdom come.* - *The goal that prayer is to produce.*
- *Give us this day our daily bread.* - *The dependency that prayer is to produce.*
- *“Give us this day our daily bread” – This aspect of prayer brings to the forefront our total dependency on God.*
- *One of the greatest snares that a Christian can fall into once God begins to use him or her is pride.*
- *When we pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” we are vocalizing our total dependence on God for even the smallest and what may appear as insignificant things in our lives.*
- *Satan is described as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8), and a cunning serpent (Genesis 3:1).*
- *Satan as an angel of light deceives people through false religions and false revelations; Satan as a roaring lion controls people through fear and worry; Satan as a cunning serpent deceives people through pride and selfishness.*

- *Pride is more like a slithering snake than a roaring lion, because it can creep up on us so stealthily and entangle us in its suffocating clutches, choking out our spiritual life.*

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)

³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- *When Satan appeared to Eve as a serpent in the Garden of Eden his lie was, “the day you eat of this fruit your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4)*
- *One of the great deceptions of the serpent in the Garden was to make man think he could be independent of God’s provision and that he could be self-sufficient and be his own god.*
- *“Most people are self-made men that worship their creator.”*
- *“One of the greatest tragedies is a successful man without God.”*

Matthew 5:45 (NKJV)

⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- *One may ask, “if the ungodly, who do not pray and ask for God’s provision still receive food, health, and other daily necessities, then why should we as believers have to pray for those things?”*
- *When we pray and ask God for our daily bread and give thanks for everything He gives us, whether it is a simple meal or divine intervention, it takes that experience or provision and reveals its true nature; a supernatural encounter with God.*
- *Matthew 5:45 states that even the things we take for granted such as the rising of the sun or the gentle rain that irrigates our crops is in fact a blessing that comes from God, but only the godly through prayer and thanksgiving recognize it as God’s provision.*
- *Non-believers may look at Believers when they give thanks over their meals as something that is either a meaningless ritual or a prayer to an imaginary God.*

- *The reason we give thanks over our meals is not to seek divine protection over our wife's cooking, but an acknowledgment that this is a blessing from God.*

Romans 1:20–25 (NKJV)

²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

- *God clearly reveals His invisible attributes through His creation so we can understand His eternal power and His nature.*
- *From the blossoming of a flower, to the birth of a child, to looking into the vast expanse of the night sky, all clearly speak about God's creativity, wisdom, and power, so no person can honestly declare these were created by meaningless and random events.*

²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- *What is one of the central reasons that people fail to recognize God as their Creator although all creation loudly proclaims Him? – “they did not glorify Him as God nor were they thankful.”*
- *Those who are unthankful and do not give glory to God for all of His mercies, grace, and provision become blinded to the reality of God and all that He is and does.*
- *It is our response to God's provision that determines if the ultimate result will bring revelation or self-deception.*
- *God pours out His goodness upon the godly and the ungodly.*
- *God's goodness to those who believe is a sign of His grace as we receive His blessings.*
- *God's goodness to unbelievers is a sign of His mercy as He extends His hand of provision, so that they can respond, repent, and put their faith in Christ.*

- *God's goodness to those who harden their hearts against Him is a sign of His judgment as He allows them to continue on their sinful ways. They become immune to the wooing of His Spirit thinking they are exempt from His judgment until sudden destruction comes upon them.*

²²Professing to be wise, they became fools,

²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

- *When we fail to acknowledge the source of all the good things in our lives, not only are we blinded to the reality of God, but we're also deprived of truly being able to enjoy the blessings.*
- *When people are not thankful to God and don't acknowledge His provision, then they are deprived of the satisfaction that God's blessings are meant to bring.*
- *“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves” – Unthankfulness leads to more and more excesses in a vain attempt to find true satisfaction and contentment.*
- *Unthankfulness always results in dissatisfaction, which produces an insatiable lust that causes a person to pursue greater and greater excesses in everything from sex, food, money, or anything else. This is a form of idolatry as those things become our gods.*
- *Lust takes the natural pleasures God created for us to enjoy and perverts them. Lust drives us to such excesses that they become destructive uncontrollable habits.*
- *God created food to be a blessing not only to nourish our bodies, but also for us to enjoy and even to enhance fellowship.*
- *What is the difference between enjoying a wonderful meal and gluttony? Thankfulness.*

- *When we acknowledge God's provision and are thankful for the food then whether it is a sumptuous banquet or a simple salad we are able to experience deep satisfaction as we partake.*
- *Gluttony results in one seeking to find satisfaction solely in the act of eating which leads to greater and greater excesses. No matter how much one eats the person remains dissatisfied and frustrated.*
- *One of the greatest ways to protect one's marriage from unfaithfulness is to be truly thankful to God for one's spouse. In an attitude of thankfulness one will find satisfaction in all aspects of their relationship.*
- *When one is unfaithful to their marriage vows it is because the person is unthankful for their spouse, and they look outside of their marriage covenant to find satisfaction with destructive consequences.*

²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- *When one mistakenly believes that satisfaction and true fulfillment are possible apart from God, then one begins to pursue the creation rather than the Creator.*
- *Instead of worshipping and serving God, one begins to worship and serve the creation.*
- *People who are covetous, worship and serve money and possessions, and they will be obsessed with these things and do whatever it takes to accumulate more.*
- *Covetous people will put wealth and possessions before anything else in life and they will faithfully serve their god of money no matter what they must sacrifice.*

1 Timothy 4:3–5 (NKJV)

³forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

⁴For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

⁵for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- **“which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth” – *God created everything to be a blessing, but they only are a blessing when received with thanksgiving and faith.***
- ***This world is filled with people driven by excesses in a relentless pursuit of elusive satisfaction. The truth is that it is as simple as looking up to Heaven and acknowledging God’s provision and giving Him thanks for His blessings.***
- **“Praise is the language of lovers.” C.S. Lewis**
- **“Praise completes the pleasure” Harvey Katz**

Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV)

²²The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

- ***When we pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” then His provision and blessings are not a burden, but enhance our capacity to enjoy God.***
- ***Wealthy people, who are covetous, find their wealth a burden because they serve their wealth instead of their wealth being used to serve them and others.***

1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- ***In contrast to “the blessings of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow with it” those who are driven by greed and the lust for riches will “pierce themselves through with many sorrows.”***

Luke 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ”

- ***When Jesus was tempted by Satan to turn the stones into bread, Jesus answered him, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God,” showing that God’s daily provision for our lives goes far beyond just our physical needs and address our spiritual, intellectual ,and emotional needs.***

- *The Word of God is also referred to as bread for it provides us with spiritual nutrition.*
- *Jesus was saying, “I am more hungry to hear My Father’s words than to eat bread and it is more important for Me to receive My Father’s words than to have physical food.”*

John 4:31–34 (NKJV)

³¹In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

³²But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

³³Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

- *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” – Jesus called doing the Father’s will “His food.”*
- *We think of food as something we take in and consume, not something we give out and do.*
- *However, if we understand the true purpose of food, we will be able to understand Jesus’ words when He called doing His Father’s will “food.”*
- *God created food for at least two purposes if not more: something we enjoy which brings satisfaction and sustains life.*
- *When we do the will of God it brings enjoyment and satisfaction into our lives. Doing God’s will gives us life and strength.*
- *When we pray, “give us this day our daily bread” we are not only praying for things we need to receive for our physical life but we are praying for God’s word and direction so that we can do His will.*
- *Natural food gives us to strength to live physically and His word provides us with what we need to live our lives spiritually.*
- *When we pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” we are submitting to God so He can choose to give us what we really need versus what we think we need or what we want.*

- *Jesus' response to Satan, referenced in Deuteronomy 8:3, points to His total confidence and submission to His Father and His provision.*

Deuteronomy 8:3 (NKJV)

³So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

- *God sometimes allows us to experience lack so we can learn to trust God and humble ourselves to receive His provision in His way and in His time.*
- *“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna” – We see the three steps of knowing God's provision.*
- *He humbles us so that we understand our limitations and frailties.*
- *He allows us to hunger and experience need so we understand our total dependence on Him.*
- *He feeds us with His provision so we understand His faithfulness.*
- *“that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” – The revelation God wanted to impart to Israel and He wants to impart to us is that life is more than this physical existence. True life and purpose come from God.*
- *When we are carnally minded we believe that we live by bread alone and we look down to this earthly life for purpose. When we are spiritually minded and understand life is more than just our physical existence, we then look up to Heaven for purpose.*

Psalm 37:3 (NKJV)

³Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

- *When God led Israel in the wilderness, they could neither plant or harvest crops, He provided manna for them daily.*

- *He wanted Israel to learn to trust in the Lord and to do good and to “feed on His faithfulness.”*
- *Even though God miraculously provided for Israel for forty years in their wilderness journey, not only for food and water, but also for clothes and shoes that did not wear out, they failed to “feed on His faithfulness.”*
- *They continually failed to be thankful or acknowledge God’s supernatural provision. Soon, not only did they take for granted His faithfulness, but grew dissatisfied and murmured and complained against God.*

Exodus 16:11–15 (NKJV)

¹¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹²“I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

- *“I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel” – Israel complained and murmured against God, because although they recognized their lack and their inability to supply it themselves they failed to acknowledge that God was able and willing to provide for them.*
- *When we pray “give us this day our daily bread” we are not only recognizing our lack, but acknowledging both God’s ability to provide and His generosity to be faithful to provide.*
- *“At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread.” – God was going to provide them with such a blessing of provision that they would be filled with bread.*
- *“And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.” God wanted them to learn to fully trust Him as He generously and miraculously provided for their needs above and beyond what they could have even imagined.*
- *Every time we pray, “give us this daily bread” we are to be filled with thanksgiving and awe, “feed on His faithfulness,” and our confidence and trust in Him will continually grow.*
- *However, if we fail to pray or be thankful, then all the blessings God pours out on us will not result in our faith growing.*

¹³So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.

¹⁴And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

¹⁵So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

- *The children of Israel’s response to the miracle of God’s provision was, “What is it?”*
- *The Hebrew word for “manna” literally means, “what is this.”*
- *Their response does not reflect awe or thanksgiving, but more of a sign of mild curiosity, possibly mixed with a degree of indifference.*
- *Every time you hear the word “manna” it is actually a reminder of Israel’s unthankful response to God’s provision.*

John 6:31–33 (NKJV)

³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

³²Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

- *Jesus drew a few clear prophetic analogies from the manna that God gave Israel in the wilderness and Himself.*
- *First, Jesus stated that the manna was not the true bread from Heaven, but in fact He Himself is the true bread from Heaven.*
- *Second, Israel, who ate of the manna in the wilderness, eventually did die. Those who partake of the true Bread of Heaven, Jesus, will never die.*
- *We can draw a number of prophetic analogies about the manna and the description of Jesus Christ from Isaiah 53.*

- “He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground” – *the manna was lying on the dry ground of the desert.*
- *Jesus had no “form (appearance) or comeliness (splendour) that we should desire Him” – the manna looked very plain and did not appeal to the people.*
- *Jesus had no beauty that we should desire Him – the people were not attracted to the manna and saw it as “gaunt and thin lacking substance” and they soon began to loath the manna even as they began to loath Jesus and turned Him over to the Romans to be crucified.*
- *Just as Moses testified to Israel “this is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat”, so also the writings of Moses testify that Jesus is the Messiah and the true bread from Heaven.*
- *The manna also gives us insights into our prayer, “give us this day our daily bread.”*

Exodus 16:16–21 (NKJV)

¹⁶This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.’ ”

¹⁷Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.

¹⁸So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one’s need.

- “Every man had gathered according to each one’s need.” - *God is faithful to provide for exactly that of which we have need.*

¹⁹And Moses said, “Let no one leave any of it till morning.”

²⁰Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

²¹So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

- “Let no one leave any of it till morning.” – *If we try to store away things so we don’t need to trust God daily, those very blessings will “breed worms and stink” and what was meant to be a blessing will become a burden. Hoarding*

- *God wants us to be totally dependent upon Him each day, so daily we need to pray, “give us this day our daily bread.”*
- *“No matter how many times we have done something with God we can never do it without Him.” Joe Lehman*

Numbers 21:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.”

- *“the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way” – The people became discouraged because they were unthankful and unhappy with the way the Lord was leading them. But in fact He was leading them in a specific path, so they could learn to fully trust Him and depend on His daily provision with thanksgiving.*
- *However, the people’s desire for independence and selfishness caused them to resist God.*
- *“our soul loathes this worthless bread” – Instead of the people being continually amazed and thankful for God’s supernatural provision they began not only to take it for granted but to loath it.*
- *No matter how much God blesses us with if we fail to be thankful it will result in us loathing His blessings.*
- *It is absolutely essential that we look to God for our every need to be met and to pray “give us this day our daily bread.”*
- *If we do not ask God to provide us with our daily needs not only will it breed unthankfulness and dissatisfaction, but many of the blessings God wants to impart to us, we will fail to receive because those things can only be received when we ask, seek, and knock. (Matthew 7:7)*