

Radiant Church, March 20, 2016
Mike Rydman

A Disciple's Heart...is Humbly Dependent
Matthew 6:11

The Lord's Prayer has six requests or petitions, and it focuses on five concepts:
the worship of the Father
the Kingdom of the Father
the sustenance of the Father
the grace of the Father
and the protection of the Father.

The Worship Of The Father: In the opening 3 petitions of his prayer, Jesus brings together two ideas that are true only of God's royal children:
the intimacy of children with their heavenly Father
and access to the Great King.
This promotes adoration and fellowship at the same time

The Kingdom Of The Father: The kingdom has come in Jesus. But there is also a sense in which it has not yet come in its full glory. Its final fulfillment is still awaited—until the day when the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he will reign forever and ever.

We live in the in-between times, the “already and not yet” times, so we fight, and labor and struggle. We groan as we wait for the day when the kingdom of God will be established fully and finally.

1. Bowing to God's sovereign purpose.
2. Seeking the spread of the gospel.
3. Searching out his will in Scripture.
4. Praying for Christ's return.

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

The Sustenance Of The Father: There is a clear order to the Lord's Prayer. Its opening focus is God and his glory. Only then does it move to man and his need.

Since, we were made for his glory, we will always malfunction whenever we fail to live for that purpose and according to the Maker's instructions.

Bread for “this day”

Debated word: can also mean “tomorrow”

Morning prayer - for today

Evening prayer - for tomorrow

So literally, it says, “Give us this day our bread for tomorrow”

Or, physical bread for today...and spiritual bread for eternity

“Bread” was the basic food for life, for continued existence; a necessity
Jesus tells us to pray for bread, not for dessert

This is NOT justification for the misuse of **Psalm 37:4** “*Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*”

This has been a primary proof text for “Prosperity Gospel”

Do we know the difference?

How often do our own children know the difference between what they need and what they want?

Too often our wants seem to us to quick morph into needs

This is why “felt needs” are feelings that can outweigh reality

What we need is always good - on the other hand what we want may or may not be good for us at all

This petition for daily bread shows us that God our Father cares about the smallest things in our lives

Because discipleship is lived out in the seemingly small, daily rhythms

To pray for “daily” bread is to admit to our dependence on God for every day

And this is contrary to how we find ourselves living our lives

We want to insure our security and independence at the same time

We want “daily,” but we also want it insured well into the future

All of us, to varying degrees are risk-averse

And, if we’re honest, what we fear most is what we do not yet see,

Therefore we fear what we cannot control

A.W. Tozer said, “The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven’t yet come to the end of themselves. We’re still trying to give orders, and interfering with God’s work within us.”

Or, we’re not satisfied with just “daily.” We want bigger and better, because we want to believe that bigger things satisfy us more than smaller things can.

It takes a high level of faith to trust God when our wants and desires are not being met:

Habakkuk 3:17-19 *though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

We want things to be safer, easier, and more comfortable.

But here’s what’s weird - Jesus is best seen in our weakness, and our weakness forces us to be daily dependent on His strong presence

2 Corinthians 4:6-11 *For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

This is why church leaders are only most effective as leaders when they have already experienced pain, and loss, and failure. We have to know first-hand what it is to be dependent on God, because our being dependent on ourselves has failed us, many times over.

Give “us” (that one little word) is a statement of mutuality, and statement of our unity by saying “we are all dependent” on God, together, for what we need.

You want to be a gospel influence to the people in your GC?

Prove over and over how dependent you are on Jesus, instead of being capable or impressive in what you can be and do

Trying to be impressive or seen as capable is a thankless slave driver, and being impressive or capable and that resulting in applause from other people never seems to last. It's a temporary fix at best. We're trying to satisfy ourselves with crumbs, and then wonder why we're always hungry.

We look forward to eternity, when daily bread is replaced with a forever feast

John 6:48-51 *I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 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 in my flesh.*

Communion bread for us is a picture, a foretaste of the fullness of the Kingdom of God

What is the “bread” we need each day, every day? Jesus

This is why we need to preach the gospel to ourselves every day, so we don't forget how dependent we are on God to provide “fresh bread” every day, all day.

When we know the gospel, when we learn to be “gospel-fluent” with each other in our GC’s, we are then equipped to preach the gospel to ourselves - and by extension to other people around us who may or may not know they are starving.

Jesus-followers were once beggars, who know they were beggars...who have been welcomed into the throne room of God, adopted into His family, and fed each day at His banquet table.