THE LORDS’ PRAYER
“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”
MATTHEW 6:9-13

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)
6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 (TLB)
6:9 Pray along these lines: ‘Our Father in heaven, we honor your holy name.
10 We ask that your kingdom will come now. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.
11 Give us our food again today, as usual,
12 and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.
13 Don’t bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One. Amen.’

It is much on the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ that we learn to pray right…but praying right is simply a matter of getting our words right, as much as it is making sure our heart is right, and our focus is right. Often times many people struggle and worry about the wording of their prayers, but Jesus is far more interested in our heart, for when the heart is right, then the words will follow. You recall that Jesus is teaching His disciples “how” to pray. They had read the prophets, but here is the Son of God, God in the flesh teaching them, and training them in the school of prayer.

If there is One who knows the heart of the Father it is the Son. As you review this prayer take time to notice these specifics about this prayer. First…notice it is a guide. Second…Jesus reminds us to pray in the plural sense “our Father”. God is not just my Father, He is the Father of all who believe. There is no praying when our praying is self oriented. Third…we are to focus on the Father, and His holiness first. He deserves it, and He is worthy of it. Fourth…true praying involves His kingdom and His will be done, not ours. If there is any area where we miss the avenue of prayer, it is in the focus of His will and His agenda. The sea of so called unanswered prayers can probably be answered in the reality of selfish, self centered praying. While it is not wrong to pray for self, it is wrong for self to be priority and God’s will to be secondary. Fifth…there ought to be a desire within our being that we “yearn” for His will to come and be done on the earth. Since the world is sinful and God’s will isn’t done perfectly as He desires it to be done, our prayer ought to be for this sinful world to conclude and His world to rule. Peter put it this way, “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:12) The essence of this section is not only about physical bread for the body, but rather bread carries the implication for the totality of all that is needed for life and living.

1. “GIVE”- THE RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE TO ASK SPECIFICALLY FROM HOLY GOD. While Jesus made it clear in the opening portion of this prayer, that God honoring prayer is focused on Him, Jesus did not say that we could not ask for ourselves those things that are pertinent to life and our every day needs. The word “give” comes from a Greek word “did-o-mee”, which literally carries with it the meaning of “bestow, bring, grant, commit”. In this one word are so many wonderful truths. Remember that Jesus is teaching His disciples at this point how to pray for personal, and specific matters.

First, we are invited by our Father to enter His throne room and ask from Him whatever there may be in our lives that we sense we have “need of”. This isn’t only the major issues of life, but all those things in life wherein we have need. Sadly, so many individuals miss the wonder of having answers to prayer because they fail to make requests. Our Father well knows ALL those things in life and living that are needed, but still yet, the call Jesus gave to His disciples was to come before the throne and pray “give”.

Second, we are expected to ask the Father to give to us. Jesus here places a great weight on the disciples then and now. All who come into the presence of the Father are reminded that He expects us to be completely open and honest with Him in the areas of need.

Third, we are to anticipate His giving to us. Jesus on another occasion used a simple story from real life in declaring “If a son asks for a fish, will the father give a serpent or if a son ask for bread will he be given a stone”. (See Lk 11:11) The point is this, the father will in love give what the son needs. So it is true and even moreso when it comes
to our relationship with the Father.

Fourth, the Father waits for our requests before He hears and answers. When Jesus told the disciples to pray “Give us”, would it have made sense for the Father to have given anyway whether there was prayer or not? The sobering reality of Scripture reveals that the Father awaits to hear from us before He brings His wonderful things into our lives. Salvation doesn’t come to the human heart apart from requesting forgiveness. Therefore if the greatest gift comes through requesting, how much more all the other gifts of life?

Fifth, the verb “give” is a declaration that we are to live in complete and total dependence on the Father and His ability to sustain all of our life. While the Father knows the totality of our lives from beginning to end, the command to pray “give” implies a direction connection between our lives and the Father’s giving. To pray “give” implies that we ask and the thing asked for is released from the Father into our possessions.

Sixth, to pray “give” also involves trust on the part of the person requesting of the Father. What sense is there to ask if there is no heart of faith, confidence and reliance in the Lord. Praying the petition “give us” puts us at the point of either faith or doubt. Many people do pray and ask the Father to “give” but they pray in doubt, thus cancelling their prayer before the Father. *James 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

Seventh, to pray “give us” is an petition that those who belong to God only have a right to pray. David in Psalms 37 is speaking to believers when

2. **“US”- THE REMINDER TO PRAY WITH A FOCUS OUTWARD.** It is not hard at all to become “self-centered” in the world we live in, for that is the reality of this sin fallen world. We are a society of “self-seeking” and “self-serving” people, because we are a sinful society. We are wicked because we are sin laden world. Yet, Jesus makes it clear that prayer is to be “us-oriented” never “me-oriented”. As believers we are a part of the family of God.

All believers live within the family, and true and godly praying is “us” oriented. Jesus didn’t say “us” by accident or chance. He was and is continually calling His disciples to combat selfishness and express genuine concern in one another’s life. Just as Jesus was seriously interested in the lives of His disciples, so ought His children be concerned about the lives of others. It is often through the means of prayer, that God moves in our lives to meet the needs of others. It was through God’s moving that the early church cared for widows, and orphans, children who had no mother or father. It is the same today. To pray for “self” with unconcern for a hurting and hungry world is a failure to truly pray, and to pray in a hypocritical fashion.

3. **“THIS DAY”-THE REMINDER TO LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME.** Since Jesus never wasted a word or used a word carelessly, unlike us as humans do, it is significant to notice the specific needs that Jesus taught his disciples to pray about. They were to pray for their daily needs on a “daily” basis. Meaning that each day they were required afresh to talk to the Father and present their needs to Him, and ask of His Holy provisions for the day. Why would Jesus encourage them to pray “this day” rather than “this week”. Praying for daily needs does a number of things. First, it eliminates worry, anxiety, and frustration. When we truly pray in trust, faith and confidence, we release all our needs to the Father, and let Him take care of them. Thus, we are depending in Him. Since trust is built through watching and observing, Jesus would use a day by day basis and teach His disciples that the Father would come through for them. However, there is another observation as well. If we fail to pray and ask for the Father’s provision, there is no indicator that they will automatically come. To receive “daily provisions” is a call to pray daily. Only the Lord knows what there is that we have not received all because we failed to ask humbly, simply, and openly. For God Himself through James says, “You have not because you ask not”.

4. **“OUR DAILY BREAD”- THE REALITY THAT EVERY BELIEVER HAS A PORTION THAT IS HIS.** When you pray “our daily bread”, God wants us to understand that there is within each day a portion of bread that is specifically, deliberately and personally ours. God wants us to be aware of the fact that our “daily bread” has already been supplied but it does not preclude asking and receiving. It is there! It is ours! But the door that unlocks and brings it to reality is prayer. In asking for “daily bread” it is a call and a command to daily dependence, and daily asking of the Father. The reason we are to come to God daily is found in the command of Jesus. “Give us…our daily bread”, is a most humbling request, and reminder…that we are not to assume anything will come apart from asking. Only our Father knows how many things have not come that would have come, only if his people would have prayed. As we live in dependence, trust and obedience to the Father, Jesus makes it clear that the Father will hear, answer and reward that person who diligently seeks Him. *Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* If you are having unmet needs, it may well be wise to ask these questions. 1) Am I approaching my Father daily for the needs of the day? 2) Am I praying in faith or doubt? (worry and frustration are glues that you have prayed in doubt) 3) Am I diligently seeking Him?