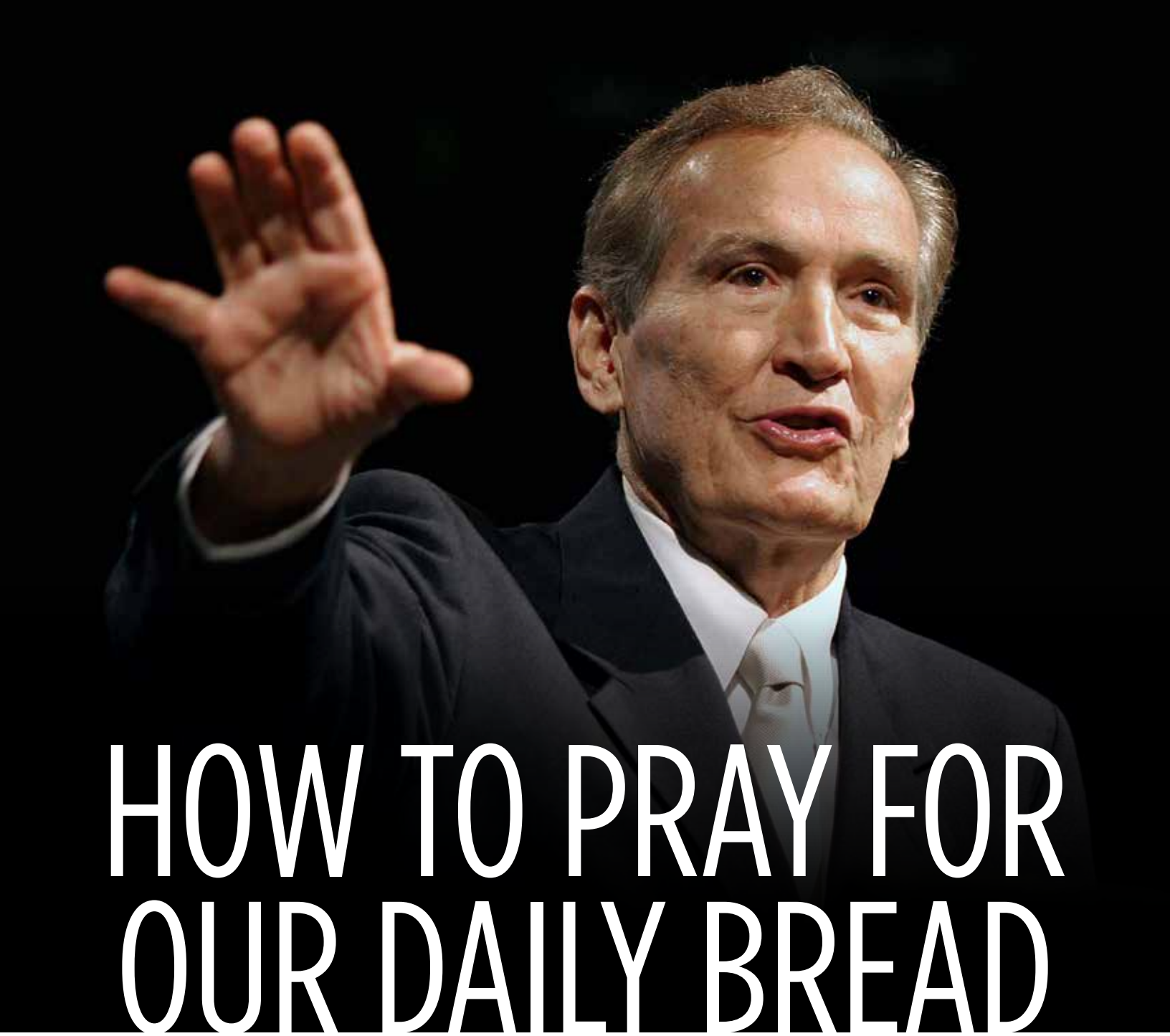

HOW TO PRAY FOR OUR DAILY BREAD

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS

How to Pray for Our Daily Bread

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How to Pray for Our Daily Bread

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 6:9-13
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1692

Jesus's model prayer in Matthew 6 teaches us that it is not the length or language of our prayers, but their faith and focus that elevate them to Heaven. Verse 11 says, "Give us this day our daily bread." Bread is symbolic of any need we may have. It gives God honor to meet our needs. Adrian Rogers gives four steps on how to pray for our daily bread.

1. **We must establish a proper priority.**

Notice the priority established in Matthew 6:9-13: Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will, our bread, our debts, our temptation. If we don't establish this priority, we will not see an answer. Adrian Rogers says, "There's one place that God will not work and that is second place."

2. **We must express our prayerful petition.**

Adrian Rogers tells us, "Prayer is the key that unlocks heaven's treasury." God will not meet greed, but He delights in meeting every need. He says "Ask of me and I will answer thee." (Jeremiah 33:3)

We must learn to ask: "Give us this day bread sufficient for us: what we need."

Proverbs 30:7-8 "Two things have I required of thee. Deny me them not before I die. Remove far from me vanity and lies. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with food convenient for me."

3. **We must exercise personal performance.**

Prayer is not a substitute for work and diligence. Proverbs 20:4 says, "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold. Therefore shall he beg in harvest and have nothing."

We show our faith by doing something, for faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)

4. **We must enjoy present provision.**

If we do not learn to be content in any state, we will never be content. The Bible does not tell us not to plan, but the Bible very clearly tells us not to worry.

Be content with a little and don't worry about tomorrow. Who needs a barn of stale bread when our Father is a Rich Baker?

Life Application

When you pray for God's daily provision, are your priorities aligned with His? Have you asked for His providence? Are you prepared to work for what you're asking for? Are you thankful for what He's given you today?

How to Pray for Our Daily Bread

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) The prayer that our Lord gave us in Matthew 6:9-13 is the model prayer.
      i) The Lord did not necessarily tell us to pray this prayer.
         (1) He said to pray in this manner.
      ii) The Lord taught us something very wonderful about prayer.
         (1) It is not the length of our prayer.
         (2) It is not the logic of our prayer.
         (3) It is not the language of our prayer.
         (4) But it is the faith of our prayer, the focus of our prayer, and the force of our prayer that cause our prayers to be heard in Heaven.
   b) Matthew 6:9-13
      i) In verse 11, we are to pray for our daily bread.
   c) Do you have a need today?
   d) God delights to meet your need.
      i) It gives God honor to meet your need.
      ii) It is really a dishonor to the Heavenly Father if He does not meet the needs of His children.
   e) Matthew 6:11 teaches us to pray for our daily bread, but bread is symbolic of any need that we may have.
      i) It is a chief need because we must have bread in order to live.
   f) Today's message will give us four steps that teach us how to pray for our needs and how to have our needs met.
      i) It will teach us how to pray for daily bread.

2) WE MUST ESTABLISH A PROPER PRIORITY (MATTHEW 6:9-13)
   a) Matthew 6:9-13
      i) Notice the priority of this prayer.
         (1) Verse 9 starts with "Thy name", "Thy kingdom", and "Thy will".
         (2) Then in verse 11, the prayer changes to "our bread" and continues with "our debts" and "our temptations".
   b) First of all, there is God's name, God's kingdom, God's will, and then our need.
      i) If we don't get the priority straight, then we will never have power in prayer.
      ii) God is not some sort of heavenly bellhop running around to meet our needs.
      iii) Prayer is not a place where man gets his will done in Heaven.
      iv) Prayer is the way that God gets His will done on Earth.
   c) The Lord Jesus Christ summed it up in Matthew 6:33.
      i) "Seek ye first."
   d) There must be a priority established.

i) Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will, our bread, our debts, our temptation.
ii) If we don't establish that priority, then our prayers will not be answered.
(1) Answered prayer is not for rebels.
iii) Can you say that the desire of your heart, first of all, is God's kingdom and His will?

e) Matthew 6:11
i) Bread is to strengthen and nourish our bodies.
(1) When we eat bread, the chemistry of our bodies turns that bread into strength.
(2) Strength is for activity.
(a) Why should God give our body strength if we are not going to use that strength to serve Him?
(i) So, we must pray "Thy will" before we pray "our bread".

f) As long as we are serving God and our priorities are correct, then when we say "Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will," we can also say, "Give me this day my daily bread."

i) But if we have not submitted to the will of God and established this priority, then why should we expect God to answer our prayer?

g) There is one place that God will not work, and that is in second place.
i) The Bible says that in all things He must have the preeminence.
(1) Colossians 1:18
ii) God doesn't want a place in your life.
iii) God doesn't want prominence in your life.
iv) God demands preeminence.
v) Matthew 6:33

h) If we are praying for bread or for any need, then there is a priority that must be established.
i) Is the burning, consuming desire of your heart that God's name be glorified?
ii) Is the burning, consuming desire of your heart that God's will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven?

3) WE MUST EXPRESS A PRAYERFUL PETITION (MATTHEW 6:11)

a) Jesus taught us to ask.
i) Matthew 6:11
ii) Some people don't have their needs met because they don't ask.
iii) Matthew 7:11
iv) Matthew 7:9

b) When we establish the priority, we then express the petition.
i) We just simply say, "Lord, I have a need."

c) James 4:2
i) They don't have because they don't ask.
ii) We deny ourselves when we don't pray.

d) Prayer is the key that unlocks Heaven's treasury.
i) God answers prayer.
ii) The one who created the universe, the great eternal God, will hear us.
(1) He will answer us and show us great and mighty things.
(2) Jeremiah 33:3

iii) There are blessings that we could have, but we simply have not asked.

e) The Bible says to ask and we shall receive, but that doesn't mean that we will get everything we want.
   i) Matthew 6:11
      (1) The word "daily bread" may be translated different ways.
         (a) It may also be translated "bread sufficient for us".
         (b) The idea of daily is there because it begins this way, "Give us this day bread sufficient for us."
            (i) That means that God is going to meet our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
               1. Philippians 4:19
               2. It doesn't say that God is going to meet our greed but that God is going to meet our need.
   ii) Sometimes we want things we don't need.
   iii) Sometimes we need things we don't want.
   iv) Proverbs 30:7-8
      (1) Give me this day bread that is suited to my need.

f) There is no need too small, and there is no need too big.
   i) Whatever you need, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
      (1) Matthew 6:33
   ii) God delights to meet your need.
   iii) If it concerns you, then it concerns Him.

g) There is a God who reigns in the Heavens; and many times, we have not because we ask not.

4) WE MUST EXERCISE A PERSONAL PERFORMANCE (MATTHEW 6:26)

a) Prayer is not a substitute for work.
   i) It is not a substitute for diligence.
   ii) When you pray for bread, you say "Amen" by working for it.

b) Matthew 6:26
   i) How does God feed the birds?
      (1) God doesn't throw the food in the nest.
      (2) The birds get out and scratch for it.

c) How will God feed you?
   i) Genesis 3:19
   ii) 2 Thessalonians 3:10
   iii) Proverbs 20:4
   iv) Proverbs 28:19

d) When we ask God for something, we don't show our faith by sitting back and doing nothing; we show our faith by doing something.
   i) Faith without works is dead.
      (1) James 2:20
      (2) It is the proof of your faith.

ii) Do you want a house?
(1) Pray for it, and then say "Amen" with a hammer and a saw.

e) The Bible says to pray for bread, and God will give you bread.
i) But He also says that if a man will not work, neither should he eat.
(1) 2 Thessalonians 3:10
(2) There is a performance that we are to exercise.

5) WE MUST ENJOY A PRESENT PROVISION (MATTHEW 6:11)

a) Matthew 6:11
i) "Give us this day our daily bread."
(1) Not tomorrow, just today.

b) Lord, help me to enjoy what You have given me today, whether it be little or whether it be much.

c) Philippians 4:11-12
i) It has been said that to whom little is not enough, nothing is enough.
ii) If we have not learned to be content in whatsoever state we are in, then we will never be content.

d) Be content with a little and don't worry about tomorrow.

e) 1 Timothy 6:8

f) Many people want to have enough so that when tomorrow comes, they don't have to worry about it.
i) They want security.
ii) But is that really security?
(1) Who is more secure?
(a) Is it the man who has a warehouse full of stale bread where rats and thieves can get to it, or is it the man whose father is a rich baker?
(2) The Bible says not to trust in uncertain riches.
(a) 1 Timothy 6:17
(b) Money talks; it says goodbye.

g) The way the child of God is to live is to just stay connected to God.
i) Our source is not in the bank.
ii) Our source is above us.
(1) Matthew 6:11

6) CONCLUSION

a) How do you pray for daily bread?
i) Establish a proper priority.
(1) Matthew 6:33
ii) Express a prayerful petition.
(1) Ask God for what you need.
(2) Matthew 7:11
(3) Matthew 7:7
iii) Exercise a personal performance.

(1) 2 Thessalonians 3:10
(2) God has not promised to bless laziness and indolence.

iv) Enjoy a present provision.
(1) Just thank God for what He has given you this day.
(a) Then, don't worry about tomorrow.
(i) The Bible doesn't tell us not to plan, but the Bible clearly tells us not to worry.
1. Matthew 6:34

b) Matthew 4:4

c) John 6:35
i) There is more than one kind of bread.
(1) For every piece of bread that you eat, a kernel of wheat had to fall in the ground and die in order for you to eat that bread.
ii) Jesus is Heaven's Bread for Earth's hunger.
(1) Jesus the Son of God came, died, was buried, was raised again, and became the Bread of Life so that you and I could have our deepest hunger met.

d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
i) Romans 3:23
ii) Romans 10:9-10
iii) Romans 10:13
iv) Acts 16:31
v) John 3:16

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Take your Bibles. Find Matthew chapter 6 and again we begin in verse 9 as we continue our journey through the Sermon on the Mount and we've been for month's in this study and we will be month's to come I believe. Today, I want to talk to you on this subject, "How to Pray for Daily Bread."

Now as I read this prayer that our Lord gave, I want to remind you, it is the model prayer. The Lord did not necessarily say, "Pray this prayer", but He said, "Pray in this manner". And He taught us something very wonderful about prayer. He taught us, it's not the length of our prayer. He taught us, it's not the logic of our prayer. He taught us, it's not the language of our prayer, but the faith of our prayer, the focus of our prayer, the force of our prayer that causes this prayer to be heard in Heaven.

Listen to what our Lord said in Matthew chapter 6 verse 9 through 13, "After this manner therefore, pray ye: Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen." Now, look again, especially at verse 11, "Give us this day our daily bread." Do you have a need to day? God delights to meet your need. It gives God honor to meet your need. It is really a dishonor to the heavenly Father if He does not meet the needs of His children. Now verse 11 teaches us to pray for our daily bread, but bread is symbolic of any need that you may have. Of course, it is a chief need, because we must have bread in order to live.

May I give you four steps, teaching you how to pray for your need, to have your need met? How to Pray for Daily Bread. Number one. Put it down big, plain, and straight, you must establish a proper priority. Do you have it? You must **establish a proper priority**. Notice the priority in this prayer. Look again in Matthew 6 verses 9 and 10, "After this manner pray ye, Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be," watch it, "Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." Do you see that? Thy name. Thy kingdom. Thy will. And then notice how the prayer changes in verse 11. Our bread. Continuing, our debts, our temptations. First of all, there is God's name, God's kingdom, God's will, and then our need. Now if you don't get that priority straight, you'll never have power in prayer. God is not some sort of a heavenly bellhop, up there running around to meet your needs. And prayer is not some sort of a place where man gets his will done in Heaven; prayer is the way that God gets His will done on Earth. That's so very important that we understand this.

One of the keys to understanding it all is the way the Lord Jesus Christ summed it up in Matthew chapter 6 verse 33, and that is an incredible verse. Look at it, we're in Matthew chapter 6, but look in verse 33. Our Lord sums it up by saying this, "But seek ye," what, "first, first," that's the priority, "Seek ye first, the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you." See, Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will, our bread, our debts, our temptation. Do you see it? It's so very plain. There must be a priority established. And if you don't establish that priority, you're not doing to get your prayers answered. Answered prayer is not for rebels.

Can you say from your heart, "Dear God, the desire of my heart, first of all, is Your kingdom, first of all, is Your will." Now, you see, you're asking God to give you bread. Now, what is bread for? Well, bread is to strengthen and nourish your body. When you eat bread, the chemistry of your body turns that bread into strength. Well, what is strength for? For activity. Why should God give you more strength to serve the devil? Good question isn't it? Why should God strengthen you to serve the devil? Why should God give your body

strength, if you're not going to use that strength to serve Him? So, you must pray, "Lord, Thy will" before you pray our bread.

I've done many things working my way through school. I did not have parents who were able to pay my way through school. You know they say that today college bread is a four-year loaf on daddy's dough. Well, I didn't have that four year loaf on daddy's dough. I had to work my way through school and I did a myriad of different things, one of the things I used to do every summer was to do construction work.

I can remember down in West Palm Beach, Florida, we were remodeling the Palm Beach Mercantile store. I was working for McLaren Construction Company. And I had the very exotic and high skilled job of pushing a wheelbarrow, and we were pouring a concrete slab on top of a building. And it was a huge thing that we had to pour and all of the steel network was in there and there were runners made of wood there, just planks to run the wheelbarrows over. And we were taking wheelbarrows full of concrete and running them back to the nethermost parts of that great big slab where the crane could not reach to dump the concrete. And we'd been working all afternoon and there was still work to do and when you're pouring concrete, you just pour it until you get finished. You just don't stop. You have to keep on going.

And the quitting time came, but it wasn't, we could not possibly quit, and our employer, Mr. Mclaren, said, "Men you've got to just keep working, just keep working, keep working, keep working. Well, friend, after a while it got to time for bread and beans and I was getting, not hungry, but hongry. And if you've ever been that way, you know. And I will never forget, after a while, a truck came up and it was loaded with the best sandwiches and hot coffee and other things, and Mr. Mclaren just said, "Fellows, just go help yourself." He didn't make us pay for it, nothing else. He said, "It's right there, just go help yourself. Just grab a sandwich but don't slow down, just keep working."

And so I realized what he was doing. He wanted my strength and so I got his food. And that's what the heavenly Father's saying. Listen, "As long as you're doing My work, as long as you're serving Me, as long as you have your priorities correct, then, when you say, 'Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will,' then you can say, 'Dear God, give me this day, my daily bread.' But, if you're not submitted to the will of God, if you have not established that priority, if Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33 is not tested, tried, and proved in your heart, then why should you expect God to answer your prayer? Again, I want to ask this question, why should God give you more strength to serve the devil? Why should He? Of course, He shouldn't.

Now, listen, an old saint, when she used to read her Bible, would find a verse and she would put T and P by that verse. Do you know what that T and P stood for? It stood for "Tried and proven". Tried and proven. And by Matthew 6:33, she had put T and P; Tried and Proven. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." There's one place that God will not work and that is second place. The Bible says, in all things He must have the preeminence. God does not want a place in your life; God doesn't want prominence in your life. God demands preeminence. "Seek ye," what, "first, the kingdom of God. Seek ye first the kingdom of God." So if you're praying for bread or praying for any need, there is a priority that must be established.

So the first point is, establish a proper priority. Establish a proper priority. When you come to God in prayer, you have to ask yourself, "Dear God, is the burning, consuming desire of my heart that Your name would be glorified? Is the burning, consuming desire of my heart that Your kingdom will come? Is the burning, consuming desire of my heart is that Your will will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven?" Now, don't tell me it won't work if you've not tried it. Don't tell me that Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33 is just but a vain promise if you've not put it to practice. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and these things shall be added unto you." Have you got that one?

Alright now, let's move on to the second thing. Not only should you establish a proper priority, but then you must **express your prayerful petition**. You ask God. You see, Jesus taught us to ask. Jesus taught us to

pray this way, "Give us this day our daily bread." May I tell you why some people don't have their needs met? They don't ask. It's that simple. They don't ask. You're in Matthew 6. Turn over to Matthew 7 and look in verse 11, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to him, to them that ask him?" Look in Matthew 7 verse 9, "What man is there of you to whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?" "Lord, give us some bread. We need some bread." When you establish the priority, you express the petition. You just simply say, Lord I have a need.

You know what James said? The Apostle James, in James chapter 4 and verse 2, said that many people have not because they ask not. They don't have because they don't ask. Did you know that you deny yourself when you don't pray? Did you know that prayer is the key that unlocks Heaven's treasury?

One day, many, many years ago, down in Florida, I went into my study and I was thinking and I had a thought that literally staggered me. I mean it just staggered me; it hit me like a sledge hammer. I don't believe I've ever had a thought in all of my life that had the impact on my heart that this thought had. When I tell you what it is, you're going to say, "Well, everybody knows that." Well, I knew it too. I knew it up here, but it hit me with such a force I have never forgotten it. May I tell you what it, the thought is that I had. Do you want to know? This staggering thought! You're going to be disappointed, but maybe not. When I tell you, you're going to say, "Oh I was expecting something different." Here's the thought. Here's the thought I had. God answers prayer. God answers prayer. I thought to myself. "Self, is that true? The one who created the universes, the great eternal God will hear me that I can talk to Him, that I can call upon Him and He will answer me and show me great and mighty things." And then I said to myself, "Self, if that is true," and it is true, "you are an unmitigated fool if you don't learn how to pray." Isn't that true? Now if, if there is nothing to it, I mean if God doesn't answer prayer, if there is nothing, let's forget the whole thing. But if God does answer prayer, let's pray! What fools we are, what fools we are if we don't learn to pray. "You have not because you ask not."

An illustration that I often use about prayer is this. I used to Pastor a little church when I was in college, First Baptist Church of Fellsmere. It was also the last and only Baptist Church at Fellsmere, a town of about 500 people, little town out there in in the Indian River country where the Indian River citrus grows. I had a dear senior deacon there, Mr. Ingram. I used to stay in his home when I'd go down there to preach, drive down about hundred and thirty miles from Stetson University where I was in college and preached on the weekends to that little congregation. One day, Mr. Ingram, who had all these orange trees in his yard, said, "Adrian, I'm going to give you some grapefruit and some oranges and tangerines and so forth." I said, "Well, thank you, Mr. Ingram." But I wasn't prepared for what he did because he brought several great big, what we would call duffle bags, canvas sacks full of oranges and put them in the trunk of my car. I said, "Mr. Ingram, I can't eat all of those oranges." Well, he said, "Son, take them back to college and give them away."

So, I put them in the trunk of my car and took them back to DeLand, Florida where I was going to school and lugged them upstairs because Joyce and I were living in a little garage apartment. And had them in a closet, had a closet full of oranges. And we were, we were having a meal, a lunch, one day and sitting up there in a garage apartment and I looked down in our backyard, and in the backyard of our garage apartment we had a sour orange tree. Do you know what a sour orange is? That's an ornamental shrub. The oranges are beautiful. Dark orange. Beautiful. Kind of a pebbly skin but you don't eat them. They're not fit for man nor beast. I mean one taste and you have lockjaw. It absolutely bitter and sour, but beautiful.

And I looked out there and I saw a little guy about knee-high to a grasshopper sneaking around in our backyard and he looked suspicious. He was looking around to see if anyone was looking. Of course, I was looking. And it's just like God watches us all the time. I was looking down. And it dawned on me what he was going to do. He was going to steal a sour orange. And I thought, well I just think I'll let him. And so I just

watched and as he got that limb, pulled it down and got one of those oranges and unhooked it. And started off with it. Now I didn't have any extra money in those days, but I believe I would have given a dollar bill to see him take the first bite. You know, it was just so strange to me to see that fellow stealing a sour orange.

And then I got to thinking, you know that's so pathetic. Had that boy simply come and knocked on my door and said, "Mister, can I have one of those oranges?" You know what I would have told him. "Absolutely not. Because, that's not what you need, but son, if you will come in here, I will load you down with the best oranges that you've ever seen. I've got oranges that are spoiling. I've got oranges that are going to waste. I have oranges I don't know what to do with. I'd be glad to give them to you." But he didn't ask. And so he got his little sour orange and went away.

I wonder some day when we get to Heaven, God's not going to take us on a tour through Heaven and then He's going to say, "By the way, just stop right here. I want to open this closet door. I want you to look in there. You see all those things? Those were yours, but you never asked for them. Those were blessings I wanted to give you. I wanted to help you. I wanted to bless you, but you did it your way didn't you. Those were the blessings you could have had, but you did not have, simply because you did not ask." Friend, after a priority, then there comes a petition. The Lord taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." "Ask and ye shall receive", the Bible says.

Now, that doesn't mean that you have the key to Fort Knox. That doesn't mean that you're going to get everything you want. As a matter of fact, in the King James version of the Scripture, it says, "Give us this day, our daily bread." Isn't that what it says? But you know the word daily bread may be translated different ways. Daily bread is a fine translation, but it may be also translated, "Give us this day bread sufficient for us, bread sufficient for us." The idea of daily is there because it begins this way, "Give us this day bread sufficient for us." That means that, "God is going to meet our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4 verse 19. It doesn't say God's going to meet our greed. "God is going to meet our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus," and our Lord taught us to pray for bread, not for cake, necessarily.

Sometimes we want things we don't need, isn't that true. And sometimes we need things we don't want. My dad used to say, "You need a spanking." Well, I didn't want one, but I guess he was right; I needed one. And, "My God shall supply all of your need, your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." "Give us this day bread sufficient for us." What we need. Proverbs 30 verses 7 and 8, "Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me." Give me this day bread suited to my need. Listen, friend, there's no need too small; there's no need too big. Whatever you need. You seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and God delights to meet your need. He says, "Ask of me, and I will answer thee."

One Easter season, I took my wife Joyce and went to Moscow; I'm talking about Moscow in Russia. And there I preached along with Josh McDowell and Bill Bright in Red Square. There was erected in Red Square a $30,000 sound stage, a choir of hundreds of people from across America and some from the former Soviet Union sat on that platform. And here was a service that was telecast nationwide on national television, presenting the Lord Jesus Christ during the Orthodox Easter. That night, Josh McDowell and I were to share the platform. There was a concert. We had prayed, "Oh God, give us good weather, because it had been snowing off and on all that week, and sometimes snow mixed with rain. And it was an outside concert.

At seven o'clock when the concert was to begin, thousands had gathered out there at the foot of that stage. We were going to have a musical concert and then present the Lord Jesus Christ. Would be my joy to tell people how to know Christ, how to be saved. These former Soviets who had been taught there is no God, to tell them and preach the glorious Gospel of Christ and months and months and months and months of

preparation had gone into this. The choirs had practiced. We preachers had prayed. The stage was set. The people were gathered. And it began to rain. The rain started coming down. I was with Bill Bright in a trailer that had been parked near to the stage and we were there praying. Someone came in the door, brushing the rain off and said, "The concert has been cancelled." Bill Bright said, "What? They can't cancel the concert." He said, "Oh, yes, the rain has caused the concert to be cancelled."

They had a great grand piano on the stage, a very expensive instrument. The contract said, if it begins to rain, the piano must be covered. That was in the contract. Very expensive instrument. Well, you can't have a concert without a piano. The sound people said, "We cannot have all of these wires running everywhere in this mammoth sound stage. All of this electrical equipment with it raining. Somebody might get electrocuted. The concert is cancelled."

Bill Bright went to the platform. He said, "No." He said, "We prayed too much. There are too many souls at stake. The concert cannot be cancelled." The man in charge said, "We'll give it ten minutes. If it doesn't stop raining in ten minutes, the concert will be cancelled." The skies absolutely grey, the rain coming down. We have this on film. A little group of leaders there got underneath a little shed, underneath a portion of the paraphernalia there the scaffolding and they began to pray, "Lord, let the concert go on. Lord, stop the rain, Lord."

And then, they lifted their face to Heaven in that rain and began to sing this, "Stop the rain Lord. Stop the rain. Stop the rain. Stop the rain Lord. Stop the rain." I'm here to testify to you, in nine and one half minutes it looked like God just wiped his hand across that sky. It got as blue as if you'd painted it with a brush in nine and one half minutes. The concert went on. I stood and preached and gave the invitation and thousands lifted their hands that they were coming to Christ. Now you can tell me that that was just a coincidence. That it would have happened anyway. Well, you believe it your way. I'll believe it my way. But friend, I want to tell you that I believe that there's a God in the Heaven who answers the prayer of God's people whether it be a small thing. If it concerns you, it concerns Him. Whether it's controlling the weather in Moscow, there's a God that reigns in the heavens and many times we have not because we ask not.

Now there's a third thing if you we pray for daily bread. Not only must you establish a proper priority, not only must you express a prayerful petition, but also, you must **exercise a personal performance**. Now this is very important. Prayer is not a substitute for work. It is not a substitute for diligence. If you pray for bread, do you know how you say Amen? You work for it.

Let me give you some verses. Somebody says, "Well, you know, I'm not going to work. God just feeds the fowls of the air." Well, He does feed the fowls of the air. Chapter 6, look if you will, in verse 26. Look at it, "Behold the fowls of the air: they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather in the barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" You say, "Well, God feeds the birds then God'll feel me." Well, that's true. But how does God feed the birds? Does God throw it in the nest? No. They get out and scratch for it.

How is God going to feed you? You want God to give you bread? Let me give you some verses. Genesis chapter 3 verse 19, "In the sweat of my face shall thou eat bread." Here's another verse, Second Thessalonians 3 verse 10, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." Is that cruel? It's not cruel. That's Bible. Proverbs 20 verse 4, "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold. Therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." Too lazy to plow? Then you won't have anything to eat. Proverbs 28 verse 19, "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain person shall have poverty enough."

There's a priority. There's a petition. There's also a performance. When you ask God for anything, do you just sit back and do nothing and say, "Well, I'm going to show my faith by doing nothing." To the contrary. You will show your faith by doing something, for, "Faith without works is," what, "dead." Dead. It is the proof of your faith.

You want a house? Pray for it. Then say Amen with a hammer and saw. You want a wife? Pray for one, then go shave and put on some cologne, learn some manners, how to be thoughtful. Dwight L. Moody was asked to pray for a preacher who was in bad health. And you know what Moody said. Moody, kids, was an evangelist. He was the Billy Graham of his day, but he was many ways an unlettered man but full of a lot of wisdom. And Moody was asked to pray for the health of this preacher, a fellow preacher. "Pray for Brother so and so, he's sick." Do you know what Moody said? Moody said, "I will not pray for it." "Well, why Mr. Moody? Why won't you pray for him?" He said, because he does five days work in ten and eats everything in sight. That is, "Why should I pray for him to have health when he himself will not even practice the rudiments of health?" You're asking God to give you carte blanche to do whatever you want, but to be lazy, to be indolent, to be selfish, to be indulgent, and then just say, "Dear God, just through prayer, counteract all of that." Oh, no, God doesn't do that. Friend, again, the Bible says, "You pray for bread. I will give you bread", God says. But he also says, "If a man will not work, neither should he eat." And so there is a performance that we are to exercise. Exercise a proper performance.

One last thing. **Enjoy a present provision**. Now, notice the prayer in Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread." Not tomorrow, just today. Just today. And Lord help me to enjoy what you've given me today whether it be little or whether it be much. I know how to abase. I know how to abound. I've learned in whatsoever state therewith to be content. One of the wisest things I've ever read was written by a philosopher who said this, "To whom little is not enough, nothing is enough." Did that get in? To whom little is not enough, nothing is not enough. If you've not learned in whatsoever state you are to be content, you will never be content. Be content with a little and don't worry about tomorrow. "Give us this day our daily bread", "Having therewith food and clothing," the Bible says, "let us be content."

Now, I know what I want and I know what you want. I want to have enough that I don't have to depend on God. I want to depend on God. I want to have some money in the bank you know and I want to have something there so that when tomorrow comes, then I don't have to worry about it. Isn't that what we want? We call that security.

Question: Is that really security? Who is more secure? The man who has a warehouse full of stale bread or the man whose father is a rich baker. Which had you rather have? The warehouse full of bread that the rats can get, that the thieves can get, or just have a father who is a very, very rich baker. See? Our father, "give us this day our daily bread." Now, we want to have it all laid up you know. The Bible says in First Timothy 6 verse 17, "Don't trust in uncertain riches." That can take wings. You say money talks. That's right, it says, "Good-bye." I mean it's gone. You say well, I've got it all. Well, you may not have it all. "Give us this day our daily bread."

Now the old trolleys would run with an arm up there and that arm would be attached to an electric wire and the power for that trolley comes from that wire. So this is the way the trolley runs all the way to the end of the line. It just keeps its arm up connected to that power up there. How does an automobile run? Well an automobile has a gasoline tank so the automobile pulls into the gasoline station, fills the tank, and it will go as far as the tank will go, the tank full of gasoline, but when the gasoline gets low, he has to start looking for another gasoline station. Isn't that right? That's the way it works. Well, so many of us want to live like the

automobile. We want to have a tank full and so we say well, I can see 300 miles or 200 miles, whatever kind of mileage you get. And, that's I want to see my way all the way clear, because I've got this much in the tank.

But you know how God wants us to live? Not like the automobile but like the trolley. I'll always have enough as long as I'm in connection. Always have enough. It's not how much I've got in the tank; it's just what I'm connected to, what I'm connected to. That's the way the child of God is to live. Just stay connected to God. Just stay connected to Him. Your source is not in the tank. Your source is not in the bank; your source is above you. Our Father give us today our daily bread.

I heard a preacher preach one time. He said, I don't need any money. Well, you don't hear many preachers say that. He was a country preacher and reminds me of the country preacher who went to cash his check and the banker said, "Preacher, I hate to give you these old dirty bills. That's all I've got." He said, "Don't worry about it." Said, "No germs could live on my salary."

So, this guy was kind of that, you know he's a dear sweet man and oh I went to hear him a little church one Sunday morning. He was just blessing me incredibly. But then he said this. He said, "I don't need any money." Well, very frankly, when I looked at him I thought, "You know is that true? I don't need any money." Then he said something that I've never been able to forget. He said, "My wife and I have $40 in the bank." He said, "We don't need any money until that's gone." You know we're saying, "Oh God just, you know, give us so much and so we can just rest in that and trust in that." What was he saying? He was saying, "God has given me today my daily bread."

Well, listen, what do you do? What you do? How do you pray for daily bread? Number one, establish a proper priority. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." Secondly, express a prayerful petition. Ask God; ask Him for what you need. Come to Him. Tell Him about it. "If you being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall the heavenly Father give good things to them that ask Him." Ask Him; "Ask and ye shall receive. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you."

A priority of petition, a performance. "If any man will not work, neither should he eat." God has not promised to bless your laziness and your indolence. And then, last of all dear friend. There is a provision, a daily provision to enjoy. This day just thank God for what He's given you this day. Has God taken care of you today? Then, don't worry about tomorrow. The Bible does not tell us not to plan, but the Bible very clearly tells us not to worry.

And as we continue in this series on the Sermon on the Mount, we're going to find out where Jesus said in Matthew 6:34, "Take no thought for tomorrow. Tomorrow will take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

One last thing. Listen, Jesus said in Matthew chapter 4 and verse 4, "Man shall not live by bread alone." Isn't that what He said? That's what He said. Now, He says, "Give us this day our daily bread," but He also said, "Man shall not live by bread alone." And then He said, "I am the bread of life." There's more than one kind of bread. Every piece of bread that you eat, in order for you to eat that, a corn of wheat had to fall in the ground and die in order for you to eat that bread. Jesus is Heaven's bread for Earth's hunger. And Jesus the son of God came, died and was buried and raised again and became the Bread of Life that you and I could have our deepest, deepest hunger met.

Do you know Jesus? Friend, if you faired sumptuously every day and had bread enough and to spare and you died and went to Hell, so what? And you can eat today a Sunday dinner and it can be wonderful,

but if you don't have Jesus, there's a hidden hunger that'll never be satisfied until it's satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 4 verse 4, "Man shall not live by bread alone." Jesus is Heaven's bread.

I read something a while back that just spoke to me. After World War II there was some little boys. They call them the Junior Gestapo. Twelve and thirteen year-old boys had been taken by Hitler, moved out of their home put in youth camps; the future Gestapo for Hitler. Well, Hitler lost the war. These boys had been displaced from their parents; many times their parents were dead. They were also displaced. And these little boys had gone from city to city, from slum to slum. And the humanitarians got these boys, the Junior Gestapo and put them in tent cities to try to straighten them out. The boys were frightened. They would wake up in the nighttime screaming with nightmares. They couldn't get them to sleep all night long.

A psychiatrist said a part of it is that the boys have such an uncertain future. They're not supposed to face this kind of thing at eleven or twelve years of age or at any time. And the boys waking up in the middle of the night having nightmares, just screaming. The psychiatrist said, "I believe I have a plan." And this is what he did. He fed the boys a big meal at nighttime and then gave them a piece of bread and said hold this in your hand tonight. Hold it with both hands. It will be your breakfast in the morning. And they went to sleep and slept all night because they had their breakfast in their hand the next morning. Somehow just going to sleep at night holding in the hand a piece of bread helped them to sleep all night. Friend, when I go to bed tonight, I'm going to have bread, not in my hand, but in my heart. His name is Jesus. And I know that I know he'll be sufficient for tomorrow.

Let's bow in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Father, I pray today that many in this place will give their hearts to Jesus Christ and have their deepest hunger met as they feed on Him, the bread of life.

Now, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."

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