

## Prayer Instruction: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread – Matthew 6:11

Mel Dahlgren – South Bay Christian Church – February 22, 2020

Notice this: this phrase is the only reference to any material thing in the entire prayer. All other requests have to do with spiritual things!

Even though our character and our relationship with him and with others is far more important, this shows God cares about our physical needs.

Story: Missionary in South America

Shot with arrow through thigh, captured, marched to Indian camp as prisoner, no treatment for days. Prayers seemed hopeless. Escaped, lost, limped by riverbed 5 days seeking help, delirious with hunger. P. 118: 5th day miracle...

God ultimately provides our daily bread, just like He did with Manna for ancient Israel in the wilderness.

“Give us this day our daily bread“ is not a prayer for prosperity, far less for luxury, but for basic needs. Bread in ancient times was such a basic need that it became synonymous with life itself.

Experiment: what did you eat each night last week? I barely remember one day. But God cares about all details in your life. Believe that???

Read Philippians 4:6 NLT “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done”

Everything?? A parking space? Stuck in traffic? Last night: dinner at 5:30 PM Miracle.

God only interested in the “big” things like cancer, need job, who’s elected president etc.

Our mundane moments - not off-limits to God. If you think, God doesn’t care about the minor things of life you are missing out on and underestimating much of God’s love and care for us.

Doesn’t say, “Give us this day our daily bread, unless you’re too busy for that.“ God is interested in everything including the very food we eat today. God is fully capable of supplying all our needs, and it is a wonderful habit to share those moments with God all day long.

### The BIG question:

The question is NOT “does God care about my daily needs?“ The big question is **“DO I trust God to care for my daily needs?“**

A vast difference between knowing and believing.

Story: Missionary in China in 1920s.

Gladys cared for over 100 orphans when her city of Yancheng was invaded by Japanese military forces. Decided only hope was to escape over the mountains to free China. After many sleepless nights in the mountains, Gladys became overwhelmed by the impossibility of the situation. A 13 year old girl came by her side reminding her of the Bible story about Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. Gladys and moaned in despair, "But I am not Moses." "Of course you are not" the young girl replied, "but God is still God." And Gladys and all the orphans made it safely over the mountains. Why? Because God is still God, and he can still be trusted even when we don't feel like trusting him.

How do I trust him?

John 6:35 NCV Jesus said, "I am the bread that gives life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

There is so much more to this prayer for daily bread than just physical bread. Food, clothing, and shelter are important physical needs, but our greater need is for our spiritual nourishment which is the LIFE Jesus was referring to here. Only He can fulfill our inner cravings for love, joy, peace, hope, and the very presence of God.

Luke 12:29-34 NIV. "And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."