

Give Us Our Daily Bread #1

Give us today our daily bread.

Lord, give me the wisdom I need for that problem.

Help my son with his test today.

Be with my wife in her situation at work.

Encourage those who are suffering today, and give them boldness.

Remember, the Lord's Prayer answers this question: How do we talk with a loving God who is always with us? He already knows our needs, so we don't have to argue or beg or bury Him in words. We can talk to Him simply and directly, as children to our Father.

The Lord's Prayer has only six short petitions. The first three focus on God alone. We seek His glory, His control, His will. The last three petitions concern our needs. Of these three, two focus on sin, specifically its forgiveness and its avoidance. Only one petition addresses the needs that usually consume most of our concern and our prayer. It is this: Give us today our daily bread.

The original word translated here as "daily" was found on an ancient shopping list. The word "daily" marked those items the shopper needed to buy day by day (since there was no refrigeration).

Both Scripture and personal experience teach us that God gives us what we need just one day at a time. One Bible story especially helps us understand and remember this: the story of manna (Exodus 16:11-31). Traveling through the desert on their way to Canaan, God's people had no source of food. God waited for them to ask, and when they did, He gave them "daily bread." It was a flake-like substance called manna.

Each morning it appeared on the ground after the dew evaporated. Each morning they had to gather a supply for that one day. If they tried to keep enough for the next day, it rotted. But on the day before the Sabbath, they were to gather enough for two days. God didn't want them to have to work on the Sabbath. In this case, the manna kept overnight and didn't rot.

The result: manna was a daily provision, sufficient for any need but impossible to hoard. God could have provided for their hunger any way He chose. Why would He choose this way? He was teaching them to depend on Him every day, one day at a time. *He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.* (Deuteronomy 8:3, NASB)