

"The Lord's Prayer: A Prayer To Say"
"The Father Who Answers Prayer, Delights To Provide For His Children"

"Do not fear little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
Luke 12:32 NKJV

Matthew 6.11 – *Give us this day our daily bread...*

- Some translations read: **Give us this day our bread for tomorrow!**
- Asking in this passage is not a one-time thing... it's ask and keep on asking.
- It's a way of living!
- Understanding this part of the prayer requires a fundamental knowledge of several things we should already know (or we need to know) about God.

I recently heard Bishop Milton Grannum; of New Covenant Fellowship in Philadelphia tell a story of a very wealthy businessman who was a faithful listener of his radio program asked Bishop Grannum to lunch...

The take away here is:

Bishop Grannum's conclusion: **He had responded from a position of Small-minded thinking...**

Small-minded thinking asks, "Is God able to take care of me?"

Small-minded thinking views our problems with a Limiting perspective!

Small-minded thinking reveals that we really have no idea to whom we are praying!

Five things We Need to Know when praying to our Father:

1. You are praying to a father who has an **unbroken** record of providing:
 - **He Is Faithful!**
2. You are praying to a father who is **unchangeable** concerning His promise to provide.
3. You are praying to a father who has **unlimited** power to provide.
4. You are praying to a father whose resources to provide are **unsearchable**.
5. You are praying to a father whose love for His children is **unrelenting**.

A remarkable thing occurred while we were working on this message. I asked Debbie if she wanted to read my draft as she always gives me good input. What happened next can only describe as a 'God moment'! Let's listen to it in her own words;

Debbie's Revelation:

Joey asked if I wanted to look over his notes for Sunday.

I started reading all of the provisions of our Father and how he wants to give us so much.

Then, I stopped and said to joey... Please address the fact that sometimes God doesn't give us what WE ask for. That sometimes it doesn't seem like he is or wants to be the all-providing father that we hear about.

I went on to share with joey how many times I have sat in services and listened to statements like,

"God will give you the desires of your heart."

"God can heal you."

"God is our provider."

Then why didn't he heal my womb? Why didn't I have a baby of my own? How come everyone else was having them and I couldn't. I let the sadness overwhelm me for years and years. I was angry at times and other times I wondered what did I do wrong? I know I wasn't always walking with the Lord and I was fairly certain that I had done something that (in my mind) had to be the reason for not getting what I most wanted... the desire of my heart.

We have been married for 29yrs. And it was only about 5 years ago I finally took the desire to have a baby off the table having concluded that it just wasn't meant to be.

The first 5 years of our marriage since they were so young, I was focused on and taking care of Branden and Sean. As I look back, for 19 years of our marriage I went in and out of depression, sadness, anger and seclusion. But never did I once ask God what he wanted me to have. I didn't look at what he had given me. A really great husband that came with 2 little boys that needed me. I was just focused on what I wanted and why wasn't he the God that provided for me. Thankfully I had a moment with both of my sons to apologize and most importantly to our oldest son before he died... to apologize for not being all that I could have been for them. I apologized for the years of taking my pain out on them. God had given them to me and I didn't see the gift they were because it wasn't packaged the way that I wanted it to be. So please look at what it is that may seem like a disappointment to you or, God not giving you the desire of your heart and spend some time asking Him what He wants to give to you or WHAT He may have already given you. Don't let 19 years pass you by. I am thankful that I have another 19 years to sit peacefully with Him to see what He wants to give me now that I absolutely know that He does give us good gifts! Because He is a good, good Father!

Keeping in mind we will not be able to confidently pray this prayer without a certainty of God's fidelity, let's consider four Facts regarding the faithfulness of our God...

Fact #1: God is Faithful

Deuteronomy 7.9 – Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His loving kindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments (David Hogan)

Deuteronomy 32.4 – The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

1 Corinthians 1.9 – God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10.13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Hebrews 11.11 – By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

What is Faithfulness?

R.A. Torrey in his book *What The Bible Teaches* states that the Hebrew root word for Faithfulness means: to prop or stay or support. As applied to a person, it means a person one can safely lean upon.

However, to determine meaning you must see examples of how the word is used.

Lets begin with some basic truth of the faithfulness of God.

- 2 Timothy 2.13 – If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
- Romans 1.17 – the righteous shall live by faith
- Galatians 3.11 – Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
- Habakkuk 2.4 (AMP) – behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by faith

We don't just live by faith, but by faith in His faithfulness!

Fact #2: God cannot lie!

- Numbers 23.19 – God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent; has He said and will He not do it? Or, has He spoken and will He not make it good?
- Titus 1.2 – In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago

Fact #3: God always answers prayer!

- Psalms 143.1-2 – Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness! And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous.
- God shows His faithfulness by answering His children's prayers.
- We prayed a few years ago for the building project and 2 weeks later a partial collapse.

- Did God answer prayer?
- God's answer to prayer is not always the answer You think you should have.
 - His basic answers are; Yes, No and Wait!

Fact #4: God has never failed anyone, ever!

- **Deuteronomy 7.9** – *Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His loving kindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments*
- **Psalms 119.89-90** – *Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands*
- **Psalms 89.33-37** – *But I will not break off My loving kindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. "My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. "His descendants shall endure forever And his throne as the sun before Me. "It shall be established forever like the moon, And the witness in the sky is faithful.*

Give us this day our bread for tomorrow

- Does not mean give us our desires but, give us what we need daily to live.

Remember also that this request also comes with conditions

- **Deuteronomy 8.1-3** – *All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers. 2 "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 "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.*

Several Traps We Fall For:

- We expect God to provide for us a certain way... When it happens differently way we are offended.
- **2 Kings 5.1-14** – Naaman the leper is cured of leprosy but not the way he expected.

When God's promises do not happen in the way we expect:

- We lose trust in him as father or provider.
- We lose faith in His ability to what He said He would do.
- We try to make our desires happen in our own strength.
- We then realize we are unable to make most of our desires happen and we self-soothe ourselves with materialism
- We want to dictate or manipulate the outcome of a promise from God
- Or, we try to make our desires happen and actually succeed, creating things and circumstances that cause consequences for years to come. Like Abraham did with Ishmael.
- Our expectations can get in the way of God's plan for us. His ways are not our ways.

Listen to God's rebuke of Jeremiah's attitude:

Jeremiah 15.19 (AMP) – *Therefore thus says the Lord to Jeremiah: if you return and give up this mistake tone of distrust and despair, then I will give you again a settled place of quiet and safety and you will be My minister; and if you separate the precious from the vile cleansing your own heart from unworthy and unwarranted suspicions concerning God's faithfulness, you shall be My mouthpiece.*