The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5–15

MPSeries Jesus teaches Christ-followers to pray as the source of all life with God, for intimacy, peace and power.

SERIES INTRO **The Lord’s Prayer**, Jesus teaching us how to pray. And what does He teach us?

Jesus teaches Christ-followers to pray as the source of all life with God, for intimacy, peace and power.

Phrase-by-phrase, we are learning to deepen our practice of daily, practical prayer that changes our lives, and impacts the world by God’s power. But one essential remains for all His teaching to matter for our living, we must obey. WE must PRAY!

**Matthew 6:9-11**

***9****Pray then like this:*

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

***10****Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

***11****Give us this day our daily bread,*

Provision

Matt 6:11

MPS True Christian prayer seeks God’s provision as our source for all life to honor Him with our satisfaction in and sanctification by His supply.

OBJ Every person should receive God’s provision because of five ways His power accomplishes His will in us.

Jesus teaches us to pray from relationship with God, the reality that we are justified before Him and therefore reconciled to Him, and to set our minds on His Kingdom purposes on the earth, and therefore our thinking, then to move to the most personal nature to recognize God’s provision to us. Jesus moves us from the eternal will of God’s redemption to His sovereign rule over all things to now our most personal needs. Before we begin to consider all this means for us in our praying, do not miss what it says to us about the One to whom we pray. The One who is Holy and Sovereign over all creation cares to be deeply involved in the individual, personal affairs of each person.

TRANS First, consider what Jesus teaches us to pray in this phrase.

Outline the Appeal

**“*Give us*…” makes a direct, personal appeal to God as the source of all things**. There is no “middle man” in this appeal, nor any need for one indicated.

This appeal is a practice that reminds us where all things originate, from the Giver of every good and perfect gift, God the Father.**James1:17** The appeal of our daily, personal provision for needs flows directly from the one who recognizes it to the One who supplies it.

**“…*this day*…” identifies the parameter in and for which we make our appeal**. The day, in time, moment and situation in which we find ourselves, not one forthcoming nor in the past, but today. We are commanded to remember and be informed by the past, and to live so to be ready for what is to come, but not to strive to exist now from the past nor for the future. We do not know what tomorrow will bring,**James4:14** therefore we should be careful not to allow it to steal what today already holds for us. Jesus teaches more extensively on this later.**Matthew6:25-34** He teaches that the only tomorrow holds for today is anxiety over it and trouble that is not yet known. When we pray to set our eyes on Him over “*this day*”, we seek His Kingdom first. Jesus teaches us to focus on “*this day*” in our prayers because it is where we actively walk by faith to glorify Him.

**“*our daily bread,*” appeals for provision for that which arises today, so we can receive it by faith and return gratitude for glory**. The personal nature of this appeal comes to full fruition in this last portion of our appeal. We are asking God the Father to bestow upon us the provision for our every need that arises today. With this appeal we recognize that it what we are aware of in our need, we receive His provision as His answer to our need. And we recognize that in all we receive by faith is His provision that serves as the sufficient supply for our need, even though it may be different than the amount, the means or the nature in which we viewed our need being met. We receive our daily bread by faith as God’s sufficient supply for our need that He understands perfectly to glorify His eternal purpose through it.

True Christian prayer seeks God’s provision as our source for all life

to honor Him with our satisfaction in and sanctification by His supply.

GSPL God’s Redemptive Purpose in Provision

What glorious hope is bestowed upon us through the gospel, that God is working for us and in us as His children to bring glory through His redeeming work on earth, to transforms us more into His likeness, and declare a faithful testimony of His power to the world through our life. God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ. We are no longer orphans, wondering who will care for us. God the Father cares for us perfectly as His own children. God works by addressing our need through His **provision** to produce our sanctification through His sufficient supply. As we receive from Him by faith and live in His will for us, our life becomes a faithful witness to His goodness and grace, and redeeming power worthy of others to believe in Him.

A. W. Tozer stated, “What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” I agree. And I would add to that the following; what comes from our mind and heart when we make requests of God reveals and exposes the most powerful force ruling us. Our requests to God are as important for us to know what is taking place within us as they are to offer our petition to God. And often what they reveal is exactly what God is working to address within us.

TRANS We must understand God’s eternal purpose in His provision. Paul exhorts the Corinthians in the hardest of trials.

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you,*

*so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work*. **2 Corinthians 9:8-9**

This tells us God’s purpose in His provision for us, that we might abound in good works. “*Good work*” is not whatever good deed you choose to do but what God has foreordained for you to do by His sovereign will.**Ephesians2:10** What God intends for you to abound in because of His grace is not your will, but His divine will that is good, pleasing and perfect, and that you discern by Holy Spirit as He renews your mind to know it. God graciously and generously bestows His grace in daily portion to lead us to live in complete dependence upon Him that we might do His will.

APPL How often we pray “Give me my daily bread”, but when God provides, we get upset that it doesn’t look, feel or taste like what we perceived someone else’s to be. When we ask God with the expectation that our provision will be like someone else’s portion, we’re not trusting God but imposing on Him. When God’s provision fails to meet our expectation, it is not God who needs correction but our expectation that needs transformation.

You pray for God’s provision, but how often do you stop to ‘take stock’ and consider all that He has done and given to you?

Have you recognized His provision and considered HOW He wills to supply for your need?

**When we fail to recognize God’s daily provision**, any sense of need makes us grow disgruntled with what we already have. We get frustrated by “need” because we just want to be satisfied. When we fail to recognize God’s daily provision, we confuse “need” with “want”, because we’ve denied recognizing God’s provision for our need, so we come to believe that any longing we have is the same as “need”. When we fail to recognize God’s daily provision, we grow disillusioned with God by ill-conceived expectations, so we blame Him for what He has not done, all the while neglecting what He has done and provided, thereby stealing His glory and claiming it for ourselves. When we pray “give us this day our daily bread”, we set our eyes on God’s divine purpose for us today to be fully supplied and accomplished.

**God’s provision reveals our true need as much as it supplies for or answers it**. The purpose of God’s provision is to bring about His divine will for us, to sanctify us, accomplish His purposes in us and supply His divine good for our life. God’s provision builds trust in Him to find all our satisfaction in Him as the source of true life as it supplies for our every need. Our request for provision is not simply about a physical need only, but to consume our heart in all that God is doing in us through His provision for us. God purposes that all things that come to us from His hand accomplish His perfect, divine will in and through us.

True Christian prayer seeks God’s provision as our source for all life

to honor Him with our satisfaction in and sanctification by His supply.

OBJ: We should receive **God’s daily provision** because of **Five ways it accomplishes His will in us**.

**1.** God’s daily provision produces DEPENDENCE on Him.

A daily prayer that recognizes God as our source of all of life, from the most magnified minutiae to the most magnificent measure is a daily reminder that He is the supply for all of life. Failing to recognize His provision turns anything from being good for us to becoming a false god to us. What God gives is for our good. What God does NOT give, is still for our good. God wills that Christians live every day in complete dependence upon Him, so that the supply of His provision for our every need displays the glory of His all-encompassing power for life!

God’s daily provision produces dependence on Him, who is the only One who can accomplish His divine will in us.

**2.** God’s daily provision teaches us the TIMING of His perfect will.

If learning to depend on God is our first struggle to surrender to His will, then surely learning to trust His timing is a close second. How often we believe we know, and we do, what it is that God has for us, only to take matters into our own hands to make it come about now. God’s will for us comes by WHAT He wants us to do (good works), plus HOW he wants us to do it (lovingly), and it always includes WHEN He will for it to take place.

*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver*. **Proverbs 25:11**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven*, **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

IF you KNOW what God’s will is and you’ve discerned HOW He wants you to do it, but His provision to you does not yet allow for you to faithfully serve Him, then His timing is not yet perfect. God’s daily provision teaches us the TIMING of His perfect will.

**3.** God’s daily provision produces GRATITUDE.

Gratitude is our receiving from God by faith in His provision for its full measure and purpose; that He has met our need because God lavishly loves us, that we have received all we need, and not all we want, because God perfectly knows us, and that our need has been acknowledged by Him because God compassionately cares for us. Gratitude embeds God’s truths in our heart, that He loves us, knows us and cares for us!

Gratitude leads you to look all around at what is instead of ‘what might be’ or ‘what if’, so you can recognize what God is really doing and not become deceived by what Satan claims by His threats. ILLUS Is it just me, or does it feel like the whole world is living in one giant game of “What might be”, “what could be” or “what if”? It is in these moments that we are most vulnerable to allow sin to root in us by greed, worry, anxiety and any other threat of ‘what could be’ against ‘what is’. Gratitude for God’s daily provision is the only way to kills the weeds of sin from growing in us.

Gratitude is the only effective response to selfishness because it recognizes your supply is from someone else. Gratitude is the only cure for greed, because it strips greed of its stranglehold. Gratitude is the only ‘healing salve’ for bitterness and unforgiveness, because it recognizes that you have received what you are unwilling to release. You can’t be grateful to God and dis-gruntled with Him at the same time; one always win over the other. Gratitude crushes disgruntlement with God in every form, exposing its lie and deception by the light of God’s sufficient provision.

This is why Paul instructs the Thessalonians,

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

God’s daily provision produces gratitude as a weapon against worldly temptation that reminds us all our provision for life comes God.

**4.** God’s daily provision produces CONTENTMENT.

One thing is for sure, when we ask God for contentment, we can be sure He is the one working in us. Nothing about our world encourages or values contentment over comparison or competitiveness. This is why Paul exhorts Timothy,

*But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content*. **1 Timothy 6:6-8**

Are you content with God’s provision for you, in what you have and what you do not have?

**A lack of contentment with God’s provision is the fruit of sin growing in us**. Faith means we repent of ill-conceived expectations to receive God’s provision for the purposes for which He has given them. Corinthians tells us that what we can always trust is this: God’s provision for us is always sufficient not only to accomplish but, even more, to bound in His perfect will in us and through us. When we are not pleased with God’s provision, we can know that something remains our heart and mind that is competing with Jesus for Lordship in our life.

ILLUS God reminds the Israelites**Deut29:5** that it was He who made their shoes and clothes not wear out for forty years in the wilderness. Without a doubt, many, if not most or all, had completely forgotten and not even thought about this until that moment. Taking God’s provision for granted in the simple matters of life is one of the first ways we forsake His provision for us.

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have,*

*for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you*. **Hebrews 13:5**

Many of us are learning this in these days, though I fear too many are not aware of the main point of the lesson yet. Contentment savors the presence of God and His work in our life as of highest value in all things and at all times. God’s daily provision produces contentment that kills envy and covetousness, to grow godliness through all aspects of life.

**5.** God’s daily provision produces GENEROSITY.

When we learn how much God can do with all that He provides to us, we learn that the supply of His grace is truly limitless, bottomless, endless for everything that is in accord with His will. And, when His provision runs short, it is always a reminder to us that we are not walking in His good works but seeking our goodness on our own terms. When we live with God’s provision as our source, we find He sources more generosity that we can practice. We are released from the stranglehold of everything on this earth to live generously as He has loved us. God’s daily provision produces generosity that kills greed’s lie and deception in us, to live so others can be blessed by God’s abundant provision.

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to honor Him with our satisfaction in and sanctification by His supply.

CLOSE Christi-follower, are your prayers producing more godliness in you by every measure of life?