

Prayer – Daily Bread  
*Matthew 6:11*

Good morning. My name is John and I'm happy to share God's Word with you this morning. If you're visiting this morning, I want to express my gratitude for visiting our church family this morning. If you've been here ministering here in Ecuador this past week or this coming week, I want to thank you for coming to Ecuador and serving the Lord through whatever ministry that you have or will be involved in.

This morning I want to show you something. I have here several different types of bread this morning. There is a loaf of bread to make sandwiches. Another loaf to slice up to make toast. Then there are croissants either plain or filled with some type of jelly or filling. There is chocolate covered rolls, cinnamon rolls, pan de yucca with cheese, and biscochos. They all are for our enjoyment as we eat a meal, whether breakfast, lunch, dinner, or some snack. Are you all hungry this morning? ☺ The bread will be downstairs to share during the coffee break after the service. So enjoy!

We're in a sermon series called "Prayer – A Relational Conversation with God." The disciples saw Jesus do miracles, teach and preach with authority. However, they never asked Jesus to teach them to teach, preach, or do miracles. The one thing that they did ask Jesus was to teach them to pray,

The first week we touched on the theme, "Don't Worry." The next week we looked at the believer's war room, that private place where you and I meet God every day. I continue to be encouraged by the messages with photos of the place where you have your quiet time with God each day. Some of the photos are beautiful, overlooking the mountain ranges here in Quito. So, if you have a special place where you meet God each morning or day, please continue to send those as they are such an encouragement.

The following week we looked at God, the creator of the universe, wants us to approach him as father. He lives in a dimension that is not limited by time or space. We are to hallow his name as He is in a category by himself. Then we looked at God's kingdom, both his future reign and his present reign from heaven. For us to enjoy all the benefits of his kingdom, we must voluntarily surrender ourselves to him. And then last week we looked at doing God's will here on earth as clearly shown in the scriptures.

The first several weeks, we looked at the Lord's Prayer as it relates to God our father, or God our daddy. Today we will now look at the part of the Lord's prayer that focuses on us, his children and God's supernatural work in our lives.

Please open your Bibles to Matthew 6 and we'll now begin reading God's Word.

### ***Matthew 6:9-13***

***<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:***

***“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.<sup>[a]</sup>***

***<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,<sup>[b]</sup>***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,<sup>[c]</sup>***

***<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

***<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.<sup>[d]</sup>***

***Matthew 6:11, “Give us this day our daily bread.”***

Our God has many great names for which we studied about a few weeks ago. One such name of God is Jehovah Jireh, which means God will provide. As we look at the Lord’s prayer, let’s look at where this portion of scripture is positioned in the prayer. The Lord doesn’t start off by teaching the disciples, “give us this day our daily bread.” The Lord said that where you start in the prayer is by hallowing my name, submitting yourself to the authority of my kingdom, and yielding to my will. It is after our focus and priorities are in the right place, then we can get to the focus of our needs.

There are many of us that want to reverse the order of the prayer. Give us this day our daily bread only comes after we put God in his proper place. So, with that in mind, let’s look at the words in this line.

The first thing that we will look at in this verse is the source. From the first few words in the passage, our Father, it is taught that God is our only real source. Everything else where our provisions may come from is a resource. God is our only real source. God can change the resource from which we get our needs met because He is the sole source. Your bank is not your source. Your money is not your source. Your job is not your source. Your boss or sponsor is not your source. You only have one source, and that is the God of the universe, who is your father.

The one thing that gives us peace in our lives is to know that there is only one source, God. Everything else is a mechanism that he uses to channel His resources to us. And if he chooses to change the resource or mechanism to channel those resources to us, we can confidently trust Him to know that He knows what He is doing in our lives. Because we weren’t looking at those mechanisms to be our source. However, the moment we make those resources (job, money, bank, boss, sponsor) our source, we have become idolatrous – because then they have become our idols. Anything that takes the place of God as the source of our lives is an idol – even if it made with wood or stone. In the Bible, idols were

things that people looked at to meet their needs independently of God. Because God is your only source, no resource can dominate your life. Your source is the living and true God!

***Psalm 104:12-15; 17-30***

- 10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills;***
- 11 they give drink to every beast of the field;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.***
- 12 Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;  
they sing among the branches.***
- 13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.***
- 14 You cause the grass to grow for the livestock  
and plants for man to cultivate,  
that he may bring forth food from the earth***
- 15 and wine to gladden the heart of man,  
oil to make his face shine  
and bread to strengthen man's heart.***
- 27 These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.***
- 28 When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.***
- 29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.***
- 30 When you send forth your Spirit,<sup>[c]</sup> they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.***

What that is saying is that if it weren't for God, you couldn't get anything from the grocery store. Anything from the grocery store came from a farm. It was produced from a seed or from an animal. But the source of everything in the grocery store came from God, the creator of

the universe. If you take away God, there is no seed. If you take away God, there is no animal. If you take away God, there is no grass for the animals to eat. If you take away God, then there is no rain, no sunshine, no land, or ocean to produce the food. So, the next time you go to the grocery store, remember, that the grocery store is the resource or mechanism by which God provides for us. It is God who is our one and only source!

### ***Psalm 34:8-10***

***<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!  
<sup>9</sup> Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,  
for those who fear him have no lack!  
<sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.***

### ***Matthew 7:7-11***

***<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!***

Your focus on God’s kingdom will affect God’s provision in your life.

### ***Matthew 6:31-34***

***<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek***

*after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

*<sup>34</sup> “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

God says that he already knows what we need. He says don't worry about what you should eat, what you should wear, or where you should live. It is those things that they Gentiles, or unbelievers worry about. But if you'll focus on His kingdom, and His righteousness, God Himself will take care of our needs. The problem is that we don't focus on God's kingdom, His standard for our lives. He wants to show that He is our provider, our sole source of provision in our lives.

The focus on the verse – “seek you first the Kingdom of God” is that the spiritual must precede the physical. God must be the focus of your life when providing for your needs. Let's look at the following passage of scriptures.

### ***Deuteronomy 8:11-18***

*<sup>11</sup> “Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup> lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup> who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. <sup>17</sup> Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of*

***my hand have gotten me this wealth.’<sup>18</sup> You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.***

Let's remember that we need to make a big deal about God. That is the first part of the Lord's prayer. It is God who is our source. God will let circumstances happen in your life to show that He is your God, your source. He will allow you to lose your job, lose your sponsorship, lose those resources in your life because they are not the source of your provision. It is God. It is God who gives us life. He allowed us to wake up this morning. He allowed us to have health to get up each morning to go to work. The bible says that He gives us the power to make wealth to provide for our needs. So, it is God. When we focus on His name, His kingdom, His will, we will then see His provision for our lives!

In the book of Genesis, we see that God provided food for Adam and Eve. He provided a garden full of trees with lush fruit. He provided that for them so that they could fulfill their kingdom assignment.

Also, God will allow circumstances in our lives for provision to dry up so that he can move us from one provision to another. Remember, He is the source of our provision and if He moves us, it is because He will provide another resource to provide our needs. In the book of 1 Kings 17, we see the life of Elijah. God provided for him by leading him to the brook of water and fed him by sending a raven each day to bring him food. Then the bible said that the brook dried up and the raven stop bringing food. But then God said that He had commanded a widow in Zarafat to take care of him. God dried up the brook so that he could move Elijah to the next place where He could meet his needs.

There are some of you here this morning upset because God caused you to lose your job. Because of the unstable economy here or some other reason, your boss or business had to let you go. However, God allowed that to happen because He wants to move you to another place to meet

your needs. He wants to show you that He is the only source of your provision and sometimes that means moving you to a new place to show His power in your life. That's the reason you must praise Him when things go bad because He is doing something behind the scenes of your life. So when you submitted to His kingdom and obey His will for your life, you can continue to hallow His name!

Now that we have established the source, let's now look at the substance. The bible calls it *daily bread*. God uses the word "bread" but he is talking about the necessities of life. He will be the provider of the necessities of life, food, clothing, shelter. Those are the basic provisions of life. Those are our basic needs. Anything above that is a want. There is nothing wrong with having wants, but you must have your needs to be met to enjoy having the wants provided in your life. God said that he is the provider of bread. God says that he will be the provider of your basic needs if He is prioritized in the right place.

We see in the book of Exodus 16 that God provided for the children of Israel while they were wandering in the wilderness.

#### ***Exodus 16:4***

***Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."***

God will always provide for us as a way for us to grow in our faith and trust in Him. And when He does, we are to hallow His name. We are to be content and grateful for His provision in our lives. This is what King Solomon tells us about God's provision and our gratitude and contentment for His provision.

***Proverbs 30:7-9***

***<sup>7</sup> Two things I ask of you;  
deny them not to me before I die:  
<sup>8</sup> Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is needful for me,  
<sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you  
and say, "Who is the Lord?"  
or lest I be poor and steal  
and profane the name of my God.***

King Solomon asks God to don't let him become too rich nor too poor. Too rich so that he would deny God or too poor that he would profane the name of God. But give him his provision so that he would hallow His name!

***Matthew 4:4, the bible says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*** God is our source, and he provides the substance of our needs. When we focus on His kingdom and His righteousness, He will provide our needs.

First, we have looked at the source, then the substance, now let's look at the schedule of God meeting our needs.

***Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread."***

God uses the word twice in this short sentence. ***This day, daily bread.***

## ***Matthew 6:33-34***

***33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.***

***34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.***

Today. God will provide for us today, this day. The problem with us today, those of us living in the modern world, we technically don't have to pray for daily food. That's because we have refrigeration. Not only do we have food for today, but we have food for tomorrow. But when the Bible was written, they didn't have that option. People ate one day at a time. They had to depend on other mechanisms to eat each day.

When we lived in Paraguay, there was a neighbor of ours who didn't own a refrigerator. Each day they would go to the neighborhood house store – the despensa. They would buy the ingredients for each day: oil, meat, vegetables, etc. They would prepare each meal and eat it each day.

Earlier, we looked at Exodus 16 about God's provision for the children of Israel in the wilderness. God would provide manna for them each day. They were not to hoard it for multiple days but gather each morning enough for each day. On the sixth day, they were to gather enough manna to have available to eat on the sabbath. They were to be obedient to God's instructions to them.

When you look at the original purpose for God's provision for Adam and Eve in Genesis 2, you see that God provided for them to fulfill the kingdom purpose. God gave them food to give them nourishment and strength for fulfill the kingdom assignment that He had given them.

When you look at the text of the Lord's prayer, the purpose of provision is not for us to fill ourselves and get complacent for what he gives us. Daily bread is for us to hallow His name, to submit to His kingdom rule

in our lives and for us to accomplish His will in our lives. If you enjoy the provision of God in your life, it is for our personal enjoyment and satisfaction, but to fulfill God's kingdom purposes. And when you use the daily bread to fulfill God's daily purpose in your life, then when we pray "***give us this day our daily bread,***" He is more than inclined to hear our pray because He knows that you are going to do His will in your life and the program of His kingdom. The context of daily bread is to recognize that He is your source for your daily existence to fulfill His kingdom purposes and His will to be done in your life. Our God is a providing God.

***Matthew 6:9-11***

***<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:***

***"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.<sup>[a]</sup>***

***<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,<sup>[b]on earth as it is in heaven.</sup>***

***<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread***

Let's pray.