

P587

GRACE NOTES PROGRAM

SERIES: THE LORD'S PRAYER

TOPIC: Give us this day our daily bread - part 8

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes brought to you by Sandbek Ministries. We're studying Jesus' model prayer. There are seven petitions given, seven being the sacred number. To date we've covered the first three which deal with honoring God's Name, His present and future Kingdom, and His will being done on earth as it is in Heaven. We discussed the fact that it's not a matter of just saying the words because they're required; it's committing ourselves to the relationship and acknowledging our duty as part of God's family and work.

It is important that we not rush past these elements of prayer because it's where we learn to truly revere the God we serve and appreciate the relationship we have with Him as Father and child. These phrases remind us of God's promise that says when we seek first to further His Kingdom and know His righteousness, all other things will be taken care of.

Though we are assured of God's provision through this promise, we must still ask for what we need. So, after considering the things of God's glory, kingdom, and will, we are to pray for the four areas of personal need; bread for our body and soul, forgiveness which should produce a forgiving spirit in us, not being led into temptation, and deliverance from evil.

On our program today, we'll concentrate on the first need defined in the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread". There's a lot more here than meets the eye, so stay tuned.

To even utter the word, 'Give', assumes several things – the first being that we have the right to request help from God.

When we ask Jesus to be our Savior, we enter into a relationship with Him. He becomes our great High Priest and the Mediator between God and us. According to Hebrews 4:16, we can then confidently approach God's throne and receive mercy and grace to meet our needs.

But we must remember what Psalm 66:18 says...

If I regard iniquity (or sin) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

This goes hand in hand with what Jesus spoke in John 15:7...

“If you ABIDE in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you.”

When we're in fellowship with the Lord: having confessed all known sin, 1 John 5:14 says we can have the confidence that if we ask anything according to his WILL, he will hear us. Then we will know Him, and HIS words - not OUR words - will come forth in prayer.

Another assumption in using the word 'Give' is that God is ABLE to supply our needs and is the only One who can.

The apostle Paul knew first hand about being in need. He wrote Philippians 4:19 while under house arrest. It says...

“..My God will meet ALL your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

If we don't know what our needs are or even how to ask, Romans 8:26-27 says that the Holy Spirit inside us interprets what we're feeling and communicates with God for us.

In Jesus' teaching on prayer in Matthew 7:7, He said,

“Ask and it WILL BE given to you, SEEK and you will find, KNOCK and the door will be opened to you..”

The Greek words for ASK, SEEK and KNOCK are continuous - ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking. This keeps us in communion with the Lord – a good place to be.

James 1:17 sums it up...EVERY GOOD and perfect GIFT is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Ephesians 3:20 goes even farther to say that God is able to do immeasurably MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

God gives us what we don't deserve and knows exactly what we need. Listen to what King David, wrote in Psalm 16: 5...

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

This reminds me of a parent, who divvies out food for their children in just the right proportion. God, the perfect Father, never makes a mistake in what He provides. It's always enough – more than enough for us.

***** MORE THAN ENOUGH *****

The next assumption in using the word, 'Give', is that we admit we are in need. This is also a good place to be.

Dale & I were sitting on the porch watching a busy bird building a safe, comfortable nest in which to lay her eggs. When they hatch, she'll be busy again gathering food. You can be sure the babies will be eagerly awaiting the feeding time, with mouths wide open.

Psalm 81:10b is interesting. It reads...

"Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. "

Psalm 103:5 says that God satisfies our mouth with GOOD things, so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

We should be like those expectant baby birds, but sadly, many of us don't believe God will provide abundantly so we come to Him close-mouthed or with a tiny opening. Could it be that we think we're self-sufficient or maybe we're too proud to ask? What are we missing out on with such an attitude?

I was impressed by the wisdom of Agur, a seemingly ignorant yet humble man. He wrote in Proverbs 30 verse 8b-9...

...give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

We often become stressed because we fail to recognize that we can't do a thing without the Lord. Philippians 4:6-7, another great verse penned by the apostle Paul, says...

Do not be anxious about anything, but in EVERYTHING, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

When we pray rightly, we're not only assured that we'll receive what we ask for from the Lord, in abundance, we'll be at peace as we wait for His perfect timing and provision. But we must not lose heart while we wait. James 1:6-8 states that when ask, we must believe and not doubt, because if we do, we're double-minded and unstable, and shouldn't expect to receive anything from the Lord.

So, let's commit to opening our mouths wide and placing our outstretched hand into the hand of the man who stills the waters, calms the seas, moves mountains and cares for you and me...

***** in Better hands *****

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