

“Prayer: Living in Total Dependence upon God”

Matthew 6:11

True prayer shows itself in total dependence upon God for all things needful in life.

1. God – the Source of All

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

(1) **All things necessary to the sustenance of life come from the hand of God**

(2) **We are called to recognize this and to trust Him accordingly**

2. The Providence of God

(1) **We cannot merit, do not deserve, those things necessary to our life and well-being**

- WLC 193 “In Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life...”

- God, out of His own goodness and mercy provides them.

(2) **We cannot “by our own industry procure them”**

- God in His providence must sustain us at every point!

- He blesses and uses *His ordained means*

- physical strength, mental ability, gifts, provision of work
- fruitfulness of the land (bounty vs. drought, famine)
- peaceful social order (cf. the ravages of war)

3. The Blessing of God – God must bless those necessary things to us

(1) **They cannot of themselves (without His blessing) sustain our life!**

(2) **They cannot of themselves (without His blessing) be a blessing to us!**

- They can easily become a snare and a curse to us!

- We are prone to seek our security and fulfillment in them!

“we are prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully” (WLC 193)

4. The Necessities from God’s Hand

(1) **“bread” – a necessity of life**

-1- We must learn to distinguish between mere desires and true need.

-2- We are to trust God to teach us contentment in those necessities which He has given us.

(2) ***“this day our daily bread”***

- Ours is to be a *daily* dependence.

- Every day is a gift from God; every breath!