

1 HC 125- Give me my needs so I can do your work

Beloved in the Lord: The first thing you pray for in the Lord's Prayer is, "Hallowed be your name." When will this happen? God's name will be hallowed 成为神圣 when his kingdom comes. For God's kingdom to come his will must be done -his Word must be preached and obeyed. For God' Word to be preached and obeyed you need sustenance 食物, 营养. So hear about this 4th petition today.

Our headings are:

The Nature of the 4th Petition(祈求)

The Necessity of the 4th Petition

Our goals are: That as God's children through Jesus Christ who desire to work for the establishment of God's kingdom and for God's name to be hallowed, you will pray that God will meet your physical needs.

125 Q. WHAT DOES THE FOURTH REQUEST MEAN?

A. *Give us this day our daily bread* means, Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and to put trust in you alone.

The Nature of the Petition

1. What is this "daily bread" for which you ask?

Jesus used the common word "bread" because it was the most needful thing to the body, but his intention in the prayer is that God would provide everything you need for your body. (The most important need, bread, was used to symbolize (象征) everything you need. This means you are asking God for good health, enough strength, a good job, sufficient clothing, and a place to live, etc. So bread=butter.

2. When you pray for daily bread, you are recognizing that only God is able to give it to you.

James 1: 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation (变化) or shadow of turning.

a. You realize you are not self-sufficient (自给自足), that you don't own anything, and that you don't deserve (配得) anything. No man does! This was the truth Nebuchadnezzar had to realize when God made him live with wild animals for 7 years. God humbled him and showed him how helpless he truly was!

b. You have only stewardship (管教的职分) of what God gives; you don't have ownership of anything. Remember how God gave Canaan to Israel and took it away from the Canaanites. The land didn't belong to the Canaanites. The land was God's. Keep this in mind when you think about how rich you are! You aren't.

c. God wants to curb (抑制) your boastfulness (夸口) so you must pray.

Psalms 104: 27 These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. 28 What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. 29 You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

3. When you pray for your daily bread, you are recognizing that God is willing to give you what you need.

If God provides for the animals and grass, won't he provide for you who were redeemed (被买赎) by his Son?

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns (谷仓); yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Who else could you go to if you wanted needful things? He is your Lord!

Psalms 145: 15 The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. 16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Devil will only give you poison pills...that taste good going down...but will kill you in the end.

4. When you pray for daily bread you are praying for sufficient things.

a. You pray for "daily bread," not "yearly bread." (The word "daily" is only used here in the NT, so it is difficult to translate.) It is better to translate it as "sufficient." So pray for sufficient or an adequate amount of things you need day by day.

b. Don't pray to have enough to "hoard." (储藏) Don't say: "Lord, give me a perfect house with lots of saving so I don't have to work anymore but I can dedicate myself to you fully!" You have to always work, be involved with your family, and be involved in church. So hoarding is out.

c. Pray for bread. God doesn't promise cake. God does not promise luxuries 奢侈品 regardless of what the TV preacher says. A famous preacher argued that because Jesus had a pillow, he was rich. He also argued that since Jesus had a money box and helped the poor it meant he wasn't poor. If you have a bank account, does it mean you have a lot of money in it? Further, even the poor, like Jesus, give. In fact, poor people give more proportionately (按比例地). So pray for sufficient.

d. If you have some extras, thank God for it and enjoy it. Then be refreshed to do God's work!

5. When you pray for daily bread you are thinking covenantally (按照盟约地).

a. You don't pray "Give *me* this day *my* daily bread," but "Give *us* this day **our** daily bread." You pray for all God's people, rich and poor alike. Yes, you even have to pray for the rich that God will continue to provide for them! **It is the rich who often provide jobs for the poor!**

b. But this is not a prayer for communism (共产主义) – that everyone will have equal amount of wealth (or poverty- as is common in communism) by force of the civil government. To do that would be sin. 2Cor. 8:9, Acts 4:32ff(Rice) Instead, share what you have of your own free will (自由意志). **Be generous with the poor; be generous with *your own* money.**

c. If you are providentially poor, don't be ashamed to receive from others. This is what God intends.

The Necessity of the Petition

1. You pray for your needs because your survival depends on it.

You need God to provide for you and **bless what you have and what you do.**

Acts 17: 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He **gives to all life, breath, and all things.**

What a humbling (谦卑的) thing to those with higher education, higher positions, or exaggerated egos (自我). So much for those who boast about earning their daily bread by the sweat of their brow or by their skills and smarts! They are denying God his glory. **Their ability and gifts are from God.** If God doesn't bless your work it will bring curses (咒诅) on you, not a blessing. So pray before you go to work in the morning, and thank him when you leave work. It is his gift to you. Don't boast about the new car you bought. Be thankful for it.

2. You pray for your needs because your service to God depends on it.

a. You have no means to accomplish God's task for you on earth – tasks that you must do because he is your Creator 创造者 Acts 17:25- and Re-Creator (Rom 11:36). **God does not give you provisions for daily life just because he wants to be charitable.** God calls you to do his work. That is why he gives anything at all. **You are in this world for him, for his glory.**

b. God gives to you based on your need to do his work.

3. You pray for God to meet your needs because God commands you to pray!

a. When you ask you are acknowledging that God is the source of all good things (goodness). Does God know you need things necessary for your body? Yes. **Yet he commands you to ask.**

b. When you pray you are acknowledging that he is God of the world (greatness).

Acts 14: 17 "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, **gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.**"

c. If you don't pray, you are robbing God of his glory. He wants you to ask for your needs and to praise him when he gives it to you.

d. Teach your children to pray for needful things as this is what God commands.

4. When God answers your prayers, your faith in strengthened.

The more you see God's sovereign (主权) hand providing your needs for life and duty, **the more you will trust him.**

Psalms 62: 8 Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

Selah 9 Surely men of low degree are a vapor (空气, 虚空), Men of high degree are a lie; If they are weighed on the scales (天平), They are altogether lighter than vapor. **10 Do not trust in oppression (欺压), Nor vainly hope in robbery;** If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them. **11 God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.**

You take what God provides in substance and strength and use them. You go to bed and rest your head on your pillow in peace and quiet at nights. You don't obsess about what others have or what you wished you had. **You don't get hypertension 高度紧张 because the stock market goes down.** You don't become depressed 抑郁的 when you don't get to marry that person you thought was the perfect person for you. You don't whine when you don't get the job you wanted.

5. You pray for God to meet your needs because **men can't do it.**

Those who hope politicians would provide for them from the womb to the tomb are denying God's provision. You should not hear someone who truly believes in God's provision say to the civil government: "I have a right to housing and food." Listen: **Psalm 146: 3 Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.** 4 His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish. 5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, **7 Who executes justice (公义) for the oppressed (被压迫的人), Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.** 8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous (义人) . 9 The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow...

The prophet Jeremiah echoed the same sentiment (感情, 情绪) in an even stronger way.

Jeremiah 17: 5 Thus says the LORD: "**Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. 7 "**Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD**, And whose hope is the LORD. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, **Which spreads out its roots** by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; **But its leaf will be green**, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, **Nor will cease from yielding fruit.**

The writer of Hebrews puts it a positive, encouraging way. God is your helper! Man isn't!

Hebrews 13: 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness (贪婪) ; **be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake (离弃) you."**

6. You pray for God to meet your needs (and he does), to do his work, and you will **receive your believer's reward in heaven.**

1Corinthians 15: 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren (弟兄) , be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Conclusion:

God wants you to pray for your daily needs. **God has the ability and willingness to meet your needs.** If you don't ask for the things you need you won't get them and you won't be properly able to fulfill your covenant responsibilities.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. When you pray this petition you are acknowledging you are God's covenant child through Christ's work, and this relationship is the means by which he daily provides for you. You couldn't pray without being a child of God through adoption 收养 by his Son. There is no prayer without the sacrifice of Jesus. A Hindu can't pray!

2. Ask your God for bread, not for manna. Manna fell from the sky, but bread comes through hard work. God's provision does not cancel out the work you have to do. Don't expect to eat without working. If you don't work you mustn't eat. God has ordinarily ordained (命定) means for providing.

3. If in God's providence (护理之工) you are poor. But sometimes some may work and study hard but don't have a lot. God wants you that way. He uses all kinds of people in different ways for his kingdom. But don't be lazy.

4. If God gives you more than you need, share. Don't hoard. The tighter you squeeze (攥紧) your hand, the more likely the honey will escape.

5. With God's provisions, work hard for God's will to be done in the hearts of men and women everywhere.

Finally, for those who are not Christians! You can't use your gifts for the glory of God because the gifts you offer must come from a clean heart— something only Christ can give. If you want that renewed heart that will bring you back in favor with God, ask him for it. He will give it to you because Jesus Christ gave himself for sinners.