



LifeSpot ... Daily bread

The actual life of God

“Give us this day our daily bread.” It’s in the heart of the Lord’s Prayer, and in the heart of our experience. Not daily cheesecake, daily coffee, daily TV, daily work, or daily shopping spree. Daily bread. In all cultures, bread speaks of what’s basic. Necessity. Simplicity. Life. The right combination of flour, water and yeast produces a mysterious dynamic of growth and beauty. Taken into the body, the dynamic is replicated. We are nourished. We grow. We develop. We become strong and we nourish others. No wonder Scripture uses bread as a symbol of the actual life of God in us personally and in the church. “Lord, give us this day our daily bread.”

Heaven’s bread

“Give us this day our daily bread.” Bread is everywhere in the Bible. About 250 verses. The manna in the wilderness. The feasts and sacrifices. The temptations of Christ. Two massive miracles of multiplication. No wonder Christ used bread as a symbol of himself. At the Last Supper, he broke bread and said “Take it and eat it; this is my body.” Jesus is not only the Rock, strong and unbreakable. He is also the bread, fragile and broken. *I am the bread of God, the bread of life, the bread from Heaven. Eat this bread and never go hungry. Eat this bread and live forever.* We pour lots of things into ourselves. Will we make room for Heaven’s bread?

From the mouth of God

“Give us this day our daily bread.” Bread speaks of what’s basic. It speaks of Christ in Person. And it speaks of Scripture. “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4 (NIV). “I have treasured the words of [God’s] mouth more than my daily bread.” Job 23:12 (NIV). In medieval times, Bibles were rare and expensive, chained to pulpits. Today, Bibles are lying around everywhere, while we chain ourselves to everything else. Work. Family demands. Material stuff. Poor relationships. Addictions. “Lord, break our chains! Free us to follow our hunger to the table of the Lord, to be filled with Heaven’s bread.”

The Gospel in the prayer

“Give us this day our daily bread.” The word “give” is deliberately chosen by our Lord. Christ is our bread from Heaven, and there is nothing we can do to pay for him—he is *given*. The scriptures are our daily bread, and there is nothing we can do to manufacture them—they are *given*. Our forgiveness and our holiness are gifts from God. Why do we feel we must do some work to make ourselves worthy of them? Everyone around us says, “Work hard and pay to get what you want.” But God says, “I am what you want—I stand before you as a gift.” Will you respond to the Gospel in the Lord’s Prayer? “Lord, give me this day my daily bread.”