

The Lord's Prayer: The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

This petition is about faith – the faith to believe that God will provide everything we need to live. And He will provide this daily. Now, faith to believe God will provide doesn't mean we just sit back and let Him do everything. Right now, your parents are teaching you to work, so that, when you grow up, you will be able to get a job and work for a living. God will provide the strength and the health to do the job. He will even supply the job. This means we don't have to worry that we may not have enough to get by. Trust in God to supply everything you need. Of course, that doesn't mean everything you want.

Prayer:

Lord, You have promised to supply everything we need to live in this life. Help us to remember that You will do this and to be thankful for our daily bread. In Jesus' name, amen.