

# Give Us this Day our Daily Bread

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*Jason A. Graham: The Disciples' Prayer Series*

**Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer, taught to the Disciples by Jesus, can lead us into revelation about God and about ourselves.

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## Give Us this Day our Daily Bread

- We need something from God Daily.
- What it is can be found in a Biblical Understanding of Bread.
- We are asking for what God wants us to have.

## Daily Bread: The Journey to Christ Likeness

I believe that the Bible paints a clear picture for us to show that we need Daily Bread from the Father in order to accomplish several things in our lives—the most promising of which is the fact that it can make us become more and more like Jesus, which is our Ultimate Goal: Christ Likeness.

### What is Daily Bread?

Most New Testament references to Daily Bread coincide with the story of the children of Israel receiving manna daily in the wilderness. It is then explained that Jesus is now the Bread that we receive. So, we are to daily be receiving more and more of Jesus Christ. This is what leads us on our awesome Journey to Christ Likeness.

#### Exodus 16:13-20 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'" <sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. <sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed. <sup>19</sup> Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning." <sup>20</sup> However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

- Getting Daily Bread is receiving freshness from Heaven everyday. This very literally means “daily.” Everyday God has something fresh for you in the exact amount that you can receive it and use it.
  - I believe this is proof that God wants to have a living, dynamic relationship with us. He wants us to commune with him EVERYDAY.
  - Without that type of relationship, it would be equivalent to a husband that only told his wife that he loved her on the day they were married. “I already told you once that I loved you. That should be enough.”
- This doesn't just mean a fresh Biblical revelation—it can be any type of word from God. A word of wisdom about a situation, a word of encouragement, or even a lesson learned from someone cutting you off on the highway. We are all God's Living Epistles—we can be the Word of the Lord to people at times.

**John 6:48-58 (NIV)** <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. <sup>50</sup> But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

## What is the Source of Daily Bread?

The Father. It is God's will for us to have this Bread; therefore, He provides it for us willingly and without us needing to beg for it.

### Psalms 37:25 (NIV)

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

### John 6:31-35 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

### Isaiah 55:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. <sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. <sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

- Not only does our Father send us His word as Bread (and even seed for those who need it—that is another study all together), we know that it will always accomplish what He desires it to accomplish.

## How do we receive Daily Bread?

If God is giving it, how can we receive it?

### By Receiving the Word of God

#### Isaiah 55:2-3 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. <sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

- Here our Father makes it clear that Listening is what allows us to eat. "Listen, Listen to me, and eat what is good."

- The Daily Bread is sent down from the Father by Him speaking over us—that is how He gives bread to the eater.
  - **Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)**  
<sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup>so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
- We must simply be prepared to hear from God every day. Expect to hear from Him and Listen.

## By Communion with Jesus

### Matthew 26:26 (NIV)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

**Luke 24:25-32 (NIV)** <sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

- Through Communion with Jesus.
  - Just like we see Jesus “breaking open the bread”, he also “broke open the scriptures” and explained it to them.
  - This caused their hearts to burn within them. Communion with Jesus—him breaking bread with us—puts fire in our hearts like nothing else can.
- I believe that it is simply faith, willingness, and time spent listening to the Lord that deposits daily bread into our lives.
- Since Jesus is the Life, the Bread, and the Word, I believe that all of the Old Testament references to the Life and the Word can now be seen as us receiving more and more of the Living Word and the Living Bread—Jesus Christ—into our lives each day.

## What is the Purpose of Daily Bread?

Partaking in Daily Bread from the Father has an awesome Purpose for us.

- TO GIVE US LIFE
  - **John 6:48-51 (NIV)** <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. <sup>50</sup>But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.
  - **Matthew 4:4 (NIV)**  
 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
    - Here Jesus compares the words that proceed from God’s mouth now to bread, in saying that man will not only live on physical bread, but also the spiritual bread, and that is what gives us life—Daily.
- UNITY IN THE BODY

- **1 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV)**  
Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
  - The One Bread brings Unity to the whole body
  - The more All of us partake of the same thing—The more Christ is central to our daily lives—the more Christ will be formed in us all and lead us all to greater Unity—One Body.
- TO BE FULL OF THE WORD OF GOD FOR OTHERS
  - **Ezekiel 3:1-4 (NIV)**  
<sup>1</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel." <sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. <sup>4</sup> He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them.
    - If we take in the Word of God—our daily bread—then we will have the Word of God for others.
    - Without this our words have only the hope of being weak and mostly useless.
- ULTIMATELY: CHRIST LIKENESS
  - **Galatians 4:19 (NIV)**  
My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you
    - We have already established that Jesus is our Daily Bread
    - Here Paul explains that Christ is being formed in us.
    - This speaks of our Journey to Christ Likeness
    - I believe that the more we partake of Christ—taking in the daily revelation of Christ that we receive from the Father—the more He is able to be formed in us
    - Therefore, our Daily Bread is key to having Christ formed in us and bringing us closer and closer to Christ Likeness.
  - **Romans 8:29 (NIV)**  
For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

## Coping with the Dark Night of the Soul

There may be times in our walk that it seems that we are receiving no revelation, no presence, no word, no anything from God. We should take joy in these times—trusting God that they are for a Purpose.

*To be clear, "The Dark Night of the Soul" is not a biblical term. It was coined by Saint John of the Cross to describe an experiential time of not feeling the presence and revelation of God at some times in life as much as in other times. The Dark Night of the Soul is man's attempt to look at scripture and explain why we all experience times like this at some point on our lives.*

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### Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

**Isaiah 45:15 (NKJV)** Truly You *are* God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!

**Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that

goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

- God will sometimes lead us through the wilderness—times when we feel that there is no revelation from Heaven—this is for our humbling.
- Humility will cause us to grow Hungry
- In humility God can give us more daily bread—more revelation of Jesus.
- Daily Bread leads us further into the knowledge that we must live by every word from the mouth of God.
- We also see in the scripture above that God sometimes “hides” himself.
- Also, we see that His word that causes the seed to grow to “give bread to the eater” does not always come in the form of rain. Sometimes it is SNOW.
  - Seeing snow sitting on the ground does not inspire great thoughts of harvest and plenty.
  - We think of winter as bleak and empty.
  - However, the snow during times of cold, silence, and seeming death (no leaves or vegetation) is still an example of how God sends his word to us so that we can have bread.
  - Sometimes it will be hard to discern, like the way that snow waters the ground for harvest, but God is still always there speaking over us.
- These times of Silence from God are often called The Dark Night of the Soul—coined by St. John of the Cross
  - These are the times that God draws away the feeling of His presence for the purposes discussed below.
- A theological term for it is: *Deus Absconditus*—The God who is Hidden (Psalm 6:3-4, 13:1, 35:17, 89:46, 90:13, Habakkuk 1:2, Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46—the most famous of all the “Prayers of the Forsaken”)

## What happens during the Dark Night?

We realize that we are experiencing a living relationship not a mechanical arrangement.

- This relationship begins and develops in mutual freedom.
- Through the Prayer of the Forsaken we learn that God has the same freedom of relationship that we do. He does not have to answer our beck and call just as we do not have to answer His (and we often don’t).
  - The prayer of the forsaken can be seen in Jesus’ prayer and prayers for the psalmist:
    - Why have you forsaken me?
    - How long, oh God, will you be silent?, etc.
- In this way God is constantly smashing our false images of who He is and what He is like.
- Also, in this way we can see that this Absence of God is an unsuspected Grace. He is giving us grace to see Him more clearly even in his hiddenness.
- He is helping us to not fashion Him in our own image.
- God is wild and free, and comes at will.
- He is neither a puppet on our string or a genie in our bottle.

## The Purifying Silence

St. John of the Cross says that two purifications occur during the Dark Night of the Soul.

### Dependence on Exterior Results

- The first involves stripping us of dependence upon exterior results.
  - He removes our need to feel exterior results to believe his presence is always with us.
  - We become no longer impressed with the “big deal”
  - We are no longer moved by praise and adulation toward ourselves from others

- We become less and less involved in the “corpus of religious response to God.” These acts of devotion no longer fascinate us.
- We begin to become less in control of our destiny and more at the mercy of others (like Peter who would be girded and taken where he did not want to go).
- In other words: we see that we simply are not in control.
- We see that we cannot manage God.
- He doesn’t jump when we say, “Jump!”
- Theological process and religious technique cannot conquer God.
- He in fact is to be the one doing the conquering.

### Dependence on Interior Results

- The second involves stripping us of dependence upon interior results.
  - He removes our need to feel interior results to believe his presence is always with us.
  - This is the more frightening of the two
  - We begin to doubt our beliefs and the inward workings of the Spirit
  - We begin to wonder not whether we believe in God, but in what kind of God we believe
  - Our personal motives become suspect
  - We are bombarded with all sorts of questions
    - Is prayer just psychological trickery?
    - Does evil ultimately win?
    - Does God really love me?
  - And in all of this, God is at work causing us to believe in Him without the need to feel some inward emotional response to Him. Once again, this is a great grace from God.

### Purifying our Faith

- Through all of this God is purifying our faith by threatening to destroy it.
  - This occurs because God leads us to a profound distrust of all superficial drives and human strivings
  - We can see more clearly our capacity for self-deception
  - Our trust in exterior and interior results is crushed so that we can learn to have faith in God alone.
  - This very emptiness helps to develop the habit of prayer in us—that is Daily Communion with Jesus—if we don’t give way to despair.
  - Our emptiness should lead us to seek Daily Bread even more.
    - He humbles us and causes us to hunger.

## Other “Dailies” in the Bible

An Appendix for further Personal Study

**Luke 9:23 (NIV)** Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross **daily** and follow me.

### **1 Corinthians 15:31 (NIV)**

I die **every day**--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Acts 2:46 (NIV)** **Every day** they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

**Acts 2:47 (NIV)** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved.

**Acts 5:42 (NIV)** **Day after day**, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

**Acts 16:5 (NIV)** So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew **daily** in numbers.

**Acts 17:11 (NIV)** Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures **every day** to see if what Paul said was true.

**Acts 17:17 (NIV)** So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace **day by day** with those who happened to be there.

**Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)** But encourage one another **daily**, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

**Matthew 26:55 (NIV)** At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? **Every day** I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me.

**Mark 14:49 (NIV)** **Every day** I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

**Luke 19:47 (NIV)** **Every day** he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him.

- This one is for any of you who may feel the anointing or calling to teach on your life:
  - Jesus was teaching everyday during His ministry. It was just what He did. It was His purpose. It's what was in Him to do. It wasn't a title that he had, but rather a description of what He did.
  - The same should be true for us, if we are teachers.