

We Ask For Bread



Matthew 6:11

*Give us this day our
daily bread.*

By

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The Central Character in Walt Disney's Movie "Cars" is a race car by the name of Lightning McQueen. He's young, he's hot, and he's fast. Those are his greatest assets. And by the same token they are also his greatest liabilities. He believes that his success is solely and totally his. He is "I" minded and has no concern for anyone or anything outside of self. The theme behind the movie (the value of working with others) is the journey that takes him from his selfish focus on life to one that understands, appreciates and embraces the reality that true success in life requires more than self, it requires the ability to depend on others as well. At the end of the story he is one second away from his ultimate dream, but the needs of another out weigh

those of his own and he sacrifices his victory cup in favor of a victory in life.

In the spiritual realm the same holds true. Not only do we depend on each other for help, health, and strength, but we all, individually and collectively depend on God for everything! Food, shelter, clothing, and most importantly, a sense of belonging, all of this comes from God. “*Give us this day our daily bread*” provides a spiritual perspective on just what it takes to sustain a healthy life both physically and spiritually.

Our spiritual life and our physical life are tied inextricably together. So it is only natural that what is good for one is good for the other. And because our natural being is necessary to our spiritual well-being in this world, we should therefore, seek the things of God’s glory, His kingdom, and His will. We should pray for the necessary supports and comforts

of this present life, which are the gifts of God, and therefore must be asked of him.

The original Greek scripture for our text states “*Ton arton epiousion*” —*Bread for the day approaching*, for all the remainder of our lives. *Bread for the time to come, or bread for our being and subsistence*, that which is agreeable to our condition in the world (Prov. 30:8), *food convenient for us* and our families. Every word here has a lesson in it:

(1.) We ask for *bread*; that teaches us sobriety and temperance; we ask for *bread*, not dainties, not superfluities; that which is wholesome, though it be not nice. (That which is good for us, not that which is good to us.)

(2.) We ask for *our bread*; that teaches us honesty and industry: we do not ask for the bread out of

other people's mouths, not the *bread of deceit* (Prov. 20:17), not the *bread of idleness* (Prov. 31:27), but the bread honestly gotten.

(3.) We ask for our *daily bread*; which teaches us not to *take thought for the morrow* (v. 34), but constantly to depend upon divine providence, as those that live from hand to mouth.

(4.) We beg of God to *give* it us, not sell it us, nor lend it us, but *give* it. The greatest of men must be beholden to the mercy of God for their *daily bread*.

(5.) We pray, "Give it to *us*; not to me only, but to others in common with me." This teaches us charity, and a compassionate concern for the poor and needy. It intimates also, that we ought to pray with our families; we and our households eat together, and therefore ought to pray together.

(6.) We pray that God would give us *this day*; which teaches us to renew the desire of our souls toward God, as the wants of our bodies are renewed. We must recognize that each day that God gives us is precious and should not be taken for granted. **We ask for bread** now because this day is the most important day in our lives. Tomorrow may come, but there is no guaranty that we will be there to see it. **We ask for bread** that fills heart, soul, and sinew. **We ask for bread**, the bread of life that make us whole, complete, and entire wanting nothing. Only God can give us this bread today.

Finally, we ask for bread that makes us mindful the fact that no man is an island; that we are all in this together. And by this, I mean this daily life. We need each other to look out for each other, to protect each other and to care for each other. Again, **We ask for bread**, the bread that can only come

from God. This is the bread of our salvation. It is the bread that was lovingly prepared for us by our Heavenly Father and unselfishly shared with us through the agency of His only Son, Jesus Christ. This is the bread that we ask for today! Yes, **We Ask For Bread!**