

Even 1

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Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

Luke 11:5 And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

Spiritually speaking, you are seated right next to your Dad, in Heaven. It's not my original idea. The apostle Paul said the same thing, in his letter to the Church at Ephesus:

Ephesians 2:6 [God has] raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Physically, however, you are on the earth. In the remainder of the Lord's Prayer Jesus gave His disciples a perspective on their journey from earth to Heaven: **Live as though Dad were standing right next to you!**

Your Dad is standing right next to you on earth, to provide what you need:

Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Scholars have a tough time translating these words. The particular word "daily" is only found here and in Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer – nowhere else in Greek literature. It can mean both "today's bread" and "tomorrow's bread." So, which is it?

It's probably both! If you're praying in the morning, you need today's bread. If you're praying at night, you need tomorrow's bread. The point is that you live in total dependence upon your Father to provide what you need on earth.

You can't help but be reminded of the bread God provided on a daily basis back in the Old Testament. After He delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, He gave them manna from heaven. They were to go out each morning to gather it; and they gathered twice as much just before the Sabbath Day. Everyone had enough; there was no lack.

Bread is a basic staple of life. In the context of Jesus teaching you how to pray, you are to be confident that your Father knows what you need and will provide it.

You can draw at least two stunning conclusions from this:

1. If He doesn't provide something... Then you don't need it!
2. He will sometimes provide a kind of bread you don't necessarily want, but that you need; e.g., suffering.

Your Dad is standing right next to you on earth, to help you with other people:

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

I want to read this in the KJV from the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

The key that unlocks the meaning is the simple word, "as." Let's say you are having a problem with someone. You are holding a grudge against them; or you have some bitterness towards them. Your Father is right there, standing next to you. If you are out of fellowship with the other person, you are also out of fellowship with God. You see, if you pray that God would forgive you as you have forgiven them, you are actually asking God to withhold His forgiveness the way you are withholding yours!

Looking at it more positively: **God has forgiven you so much!** He is your example of forgiveness and He can empower you to forgive others who have wronged you.

By the way: This has nothing to do with your salvation. You are a child of God; God is your Father. But if you have issues with your brothers and sisters, you cannot enjoy the fullness of your fellowship with your Father.

Your Dad is standing right next to you on earth, to help you through all your perils:

Luke 11:4 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

The word for “temptation” means a trial or testing which, if yielded to, will lead to sin. There are two things you need to know about temptation:

1. First – God does not tempt you to sin.
2. Second – God does allow you to be tempted.

Temptation comes from the evil one. That’s not to say you are always (or ever!) being attacked by the devil himself. It is a general observation. Satan – not God - tempted Adam and Eve. God allowed it. They yielded, and it led to sin. Their encounter with the evil one in the Garden of Eden set the stage for you to be tempted.

Jesus came to earth. He, too, was tempted by the evil one. There, in a bleak wilderness, tempted by Satan after forty days of fasting, Jesus relied upon the Word of God, and was victorious. He prevailed by depending upon His Father to help Him.

Your Dad is standing right next to you on earth to help you resist the perils of temptation. You can be confident that none of the temptations that He allows are beyond your ability to resist, provided you will depend upon Him and not your own strength.

To put it another way: You can follow the example of Jesus in the wilderness rather than the example of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Your Father provides what you need; and He is standing there to help you in your problems with people, and through your perils. Those principles should guide you when you talk with Him.

I wonder if the disciples weren't just a little disappointed? After all, they wanted a formal prayer, and Jesus was encouraging them to pray informally.

There's something strangely appealing about formalism, about religion. But it appeals to our flesh, to our own sense of righteousness - making us feel as though we are doing something to make ourselves right with God.

This is just one reason we are so opposed to the recent movement within what is called the emergent church towards a greater formalism in prayer. They claim to be rediscovering ancient or lost methods of prayer that somehow empowered the early church.

If those formal methods and meditations were so crucial, don't you think Jesus would have both practiced them and taught them?

He did not. In fact, He obliterated them once-for-all in giving us the pattern for prayer.

You're seated next to Dad in Heaven; He's standing next to you on earth.

Talk to Him as if you believed that were the case - **since it is!**

