

IMPROVING YOUR PRAYER LIFE  
LESSON THREE  
REQUESTING THE FATHER'S GOODNESS  
LUKE 11:3-4

Introduction:

The Father is the source of all good things. He is the Giver of all that is needed for living in this world.

After focusing on the Father's glory, the Savior focuses our attention on our need of His goodness in our daily lives. The three petitions that we have in Luke's account of the prayer are broad enough to cover all of life.

I. GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD--

1. The petition acknowledges the necessity of bread.

Bread represents whatever we might need for the sustaining of life--food, shelter, clothing, health.

The part stands for the whole.

2. The petition acknowledges God as the Source of bread.

The Father is the Giver of all that we need. He is a Father so He is concerned about all of our needs, even the physical.

Are we aware of how dependent we are on God for the sustaining of life?

God has provided us so generously even without our asking, that we tend to forget that He is the Father who provides. This is not where most of the world lives. Most of us the world lives without enough bread but without the knowledge that there is a Father who provides if we will ask.

God may give directly as He did for the children of Israel in the wilderness, or He may provide through someone else.

The Dave Kennedy story which Alice tells. "We eat better when God provides than we Daddy provides.

Gilbert Herrera's son asking John Ballard, "Are you God?"

3. The petition indicates the pattern of the divine Supply.

The supply comes one day at a time. We are to ask for enough for today.

Be content with what God gives, and then be confident that He will provide for tomorrow as the need may arise.

## II. FORIVE US OUR TRESPASSES--

1. The petition makes a confession.

Since we all sin daily, we need daily forgiveness. Matthew uses the words debt in the petition. The assumption is that we as His creatures owe God complete devotion, obedience, and all glory in everything. When we fail, we create debt. We miss a payment.

2. The petition asks for mercy.

We are totally incapable of removing even the smallest sin from our record--only God can do it.

In justification God is the Judge. In this petition God is the Father, according to Dr. Packer. While He has declared us forgiven in justification, we are still members of the family who come short. We are requesting that God pick up the cost that our sin has incurred.

3. The petition acknowledges gratitude.

When God forgives, He gives the forgiven a forgiving heart.

## III. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION--

1. The petition acknowledges a real danger. There is always danger in the world in which we live.

2. The petition requests divine protection.

God provides protection to those who ask for it.

3. The petition acknowledges a desire for holiness.

If we pray like this, we will know that when temptation comes, God has already made provision for our escape.

4. The petition expresses humility.

Only the presumptuous and proud will neglect this prayer.