

## HC 125- Provision for all your daily needs\*

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When God's name is hallowed, his kingdom will come. When his kingdom comes, his will will be done on earth as the angels do his will in heaven. But for his name to be hallowed, for his kingdom to come, and for his will to be done, you need sustenance 营养. Today God will speak to you about this 4th request of the Lord's Prayer – a request for sustenance.

Our headings are: The Nature of the 4<sup>th</sup> Petition, and The Necessity of the 4<sup>th</sup> Petition.

Our goals are: That as God's children through Jesus Christ, you will realize that God gives you what you need to do the work of building Christ's kingdom and that you will learn be thankful for what he gives you.

125 Q. WHAT DOES THE FOURTH REQUEST MEAN? A. *Give us this day our daily bread* means, Do **take care of all our physical needs** so that we come to know that you are the only **source of everything good**, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts **can do us any good without your blessing**. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and to put trust in you alone.

### The Nature of the Petition

**1. What is this “daily bread” for which you ask? Jesus used the common word “bread” because it was the most needful thing to the body.** But the intention of the prayer is that God would provide everything you need for your body. (The most important (bread) is used to symbolize everything you need. This means you are asking God for good health, enough strength, a good job, sufficient clothing, and a place to live, etc. So bread=butter.

**2. When you pray for daily bread, you are recognizing that only God has the ability** to give it to you. He alone is God. You realize you are not self-sufficient, that you don't own anything and that you don't deserve anything. No man can truly say he does. This was the truth that Nebuchadnezzar had to realize when God made him live with wild animals for 7 years. He gave Canaan to Israel and took it away from the Canaanites. You have stewardship 管家, not ownership 所有权 of your property. This curbs boastfulness. This curbs self-pity 自怜.

Psalm 104: 27 These all wait for You, **That You may give them their food in due season**. 28 What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. 29 You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. 30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

James 1: 17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

**3. When you pray for your daily bread, you are recognizing that God is willing** to give it. After all, if God provides for the animals and grass, won't he provide for you who were redeemed by his Son.

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they?**

Who else could you go to if you wanted needful things? He is your Lord!

Psalm 145: 15 The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. 16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**4. When you pray for daily bread you are praying for sufficient things. After all, you pray for “daily bread,” not “yearly bread.”** (“Daily” is only used here in the NT, so it is difficult to translate.) It is better to translate this word “sufficient 充足” Jesus wants you to pray for sufficient or an adequate amount of things you need day by day.

Don't pray to have enough to “hoard 贮藏”

You must pray for bread, but you don't have to pray for cake. God does not promise luxuries 奢华 (except where luxuries help the promotion of his kingdom and your spiritual welfare), regardless of what the TV preacher says. A famous preacher argued that because Jesus had a pillow, he was rich. He also argued that since Jesus had a money box and helped the poor it meant he wasn't poor. Ignorant reasoning. If you have a bank account, does it mean you have a lot of money in it? Further, even the poor, like Jesus, give. In fact, poor people give more proportionately.

**5. When you pray for daily bread you are thinking Covenantally. You don't pray “Give me this day**

my daily bread,” but “Give *us* this day our daily bread.” You pray for all God’s people, rich and poor alike. Yes, you do have to pray for the rich that God will continue to provide for them! It is the rich who often provide jobs for the poor! But be careful not to think that this is a prayer for communism 共产主义 – that everyone will have equal amount of wealth (or poverty- as is common in communism) by force of the civil government. To do that would be sin. 2Cor. 8:9, Acts 4:32ff (Rice) Instead, share what you have of your own free will. Be generous with the poor. If you are poor, don’t be ashamed to receive from others.

## **The Necessity of the Petition**

**1. You pray for your needs because your survival depends on it.** You need God to provide for you and **bless what you do and what you have.**

Acts 17: 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He **gives to all life, breath, and all things.**

What a humbling thing to those with higher education, higher positions, or exaggerated egos 夸大的自我. So much for those who boast about earning their daily bread by the sweat of their brow or by their skills and smarts! They are denying God his glory. These ability and gifts are from God. If God doesn’t bless your work it will bring curses on your, not a blessing. So pray before you go to work in the morning, and thank him when you leave work. It is his gift to you. Pray that he will provide all things you need. Don’t boast about the new car you bought.

**2. You pray for your needs because your service to God requires you have his gifts.** You have no means to accomplish God’s task for you on earth – tasks that you must do because he is your Creator (Acts 17:25) and Re-Creator (Romans 11:36). **God does not give you provisions for daily life to simply be charitable.** God calls you to do his work. That is why he gives anything at all. You are in this world for him, for his glory. God gives to you based on your need to do his Work, this is why I have an asterisk above.

**3. You pray for God to meet your needs because God commands you to pray!** Does God know you need things necessary for your body? Yes. **Yet he requires that you ask.**

a. When you ask you are acknowledging that **God is the source of all good things**一切好处的根源 (goodness).

b. And you are acknowledging that he is God of the world (greatness).

Acts 14: 17 "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, **gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.**"

c. If you don’t care to pray, **you are robbing God of his glory.** He wants you to ask for your needs and to praise him when he gives it to you.

d. **Do you teach your children to pray for needful things?**

**4. When you God answers your prayers, your faith is strengthened.** The more you see God’s sovereign 主权 hand providing your needs for life and duty, **the more you will trust him.**

Psalms 62: 8 **Trust in Him at all times, you people;** Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah 9 **Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie;** If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor. 10 Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them. 11 God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: **That power belongs to God.**

**With strong faith you won’t worry about when you don’t get for what you prayed. You don’t worry about “what could have been!”** You take what God provides in substance and strength and use them. You go to bed and rest your head on your pillow in peace and quiet at nights.

Psalms 37: 16 A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked.

You don’t obsess about what others have or what you wished you had. **You don’t get hypertension because the stock market goes down.** You don’t become depressed when you don’t

get to marry that person you thought was the perfect person for you.

**5. You pray for God to meet your needs because you must not put your trust in men.** Those who hope politicians would provide for all aspects of their lives from the womb to the tomb, for instance, are denying God's provision. You should not hear someone who truly believes in God's provision say to the civil government: "I have a right to housing and food." Look to God.

**Psalm 146: 3 Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.**  
4 His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish. 5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, **7 Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.** 8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous. 9 **The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow...**

The prophet Jeremiah echoed the same sentiment 意见 in an even stronger way.

**Jeremiah 17: 5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. **7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,** And whose hope is the LORD. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, **Which spreads out its roots** by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; **But its leaf will be green,** And will not be anxious in the year of drought, **Nor will cease from yielding fruit.**

And the writer of Hebrews puts it a positive, encouraging way. God is your helper! Man isn't!

**Hebrews 13: 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

**6. You pray for God to meet your needs (and he does), you do his work, and you will receive your believer's reward in heaven.**

**1Corinthians 15: 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

### **Conclusion:**

You have seen **the nature** and **the need** of this 4<sup>th</sup> petition. **God has the ability and willingness to meet your needs. God gives you gifts in order that you fulfill your duty him.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. When you make this petition you are acknowledging you are God's covenant child on account of Christ's work, and this relationship is the one by which he daily provides for you.** You couldn't pray without being a child of God through the adoption by his Son. Praise God that you are his!

**2. Ask your God for bread, not for manna.** Manna fell from the sky, but bread comes through hard work. God's provision does not cancel out the work you have to do. Don't expect to eat without working. If you don't work you mustn't eat. God has ordained means for providing. So children, pray for help in your exams, and study hard.

**3. The wicked get food through common grace 普遍恩惠, but they will be judged for their acceptance of God's gift but their rejection of him.** So don't be jealous when the wicked seem to prosper. And be thankful, even when what you have is less than what the wicked rich have.

**4. Greediness will kill** (Prov 30:8-9), so be careful not to pray for more than you are able to handle.

**5. If God gives you more than you need, share.** Don't hoard. The tighter you squeeze your hand, the more likely the honey will escape.

Finally, a word for those who are not Christians! You can't use your gifts for the glory of God because the gifts you offer must come from a clean, renewed heart 更新的心灵 – something only a Christian has. You will therefore have to give an account to God for how you used the many gifts he has given to you. If you want that renewed heart that will bring you back in favor with God, ask him for it. He will give it to you because Jesus Christ gave himself for sinners.