

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Luke 11:1-4 “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father *in heaven*, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. *Give us day by day our daily bread.* 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.”

Quote: “You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have.” Corrie Ten Boone, Survivor of a German concentration camp.

In the context of showing reverence for the Father and desiring His will to be done on earth, the words, “Give us this day our daily bread,” are an acknowledgment of our dependency upon God. Unlike some believers in the today’s world, most of us in America have never had to pray, “Give us THIS day, our DAILY bread!” In reality, we often take God’s provision for granted and we are not as grateful as we should be for the basic necessities of life. Think about living in the days when this model prayer was offered. No grocery stores. No credit lines. It was much like some Christians live in third-world countries today—from “hand to mouth!”

Prayer— Requests

“Give us this day our daily bread” reminds us that we are to trust God as our Provider and demonstrate contentment with His provision for us. Paul wrote, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And *having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.* But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”¹ Could it be said that you are grateful for, and content with, the necessities

of life that God provides? Too often, we grumbling compare what we don’t have with what others do have instead of gratefully thanking God for His provision. This can lead to seeking to satisfy the greed to get more instead of seeking the grace to give more. Ingratitude and discontentment are an insult to the Father Who is able to give us what we want, but is wise to give us what we need for His glory. The Almighty knows our needs before we pray them! If our prayers are self-serving attempts to pester Him into granting selfish desires, then they are an offense to Him. Oh that we would exhibit more of the selfless spirit of the early church! What a witness it would be to those who are obsessed with “the good life” at the expense of loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. Of the early church Luke wrote in the book of Acts, “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, *as anyone had need.* So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, *praising God and having favor with all the people.* And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”²

The day may be fast approaching when necessities become luxuries in this country that has been so blessed by God Whom many now ignore or scorn. Jesus cautioned His listeners not to lay up for themselves treasures on earth. He then reassured them of God’s provision for those who seek to please Him. “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...? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and *all these things shall be added to you.*”³ In these times of uncertainty, there can be no greater insurance than the favor and blessing of God!

1 | Timothy 6:6-10 2 Acts 2:44-47 3 Matthew 6:25-34