

Sweet 'Our' of Prayer (Matt 6:11)

Introduction: *"Glorify God in your body..."*

"Glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1Co 6:20). He writes that we should present the parts, or "instruments" of our body as instruments of righteousness (Rom 6:13, see Phil 1:20, Rom 8:13).

1. Depending upon Our Father for all our needs: "Give..."

"He gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17, compare Deut 8:17-18, Job 1:13, etc.).

Heidelberg Q. 125: "[We] acknowledge you to be the only fountain of all good, and that neither our care nor industry, or even your gifts, can profit us without your blessing, and therefore [we] withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it alone in you." (1)Ps 104:27-30; 145:15, 16; Mt 6:25-34. (2) Acts 14:17; 17:25; Jas 1:17. (3) Deut 8:3; Ps 37:16; 127:1, 2; 1 Cor 15:58. (4) Ps 55:22; 62; 146; Jer 17:5-8; Heb 13:5, 6.

2. Concerning ourselves with the needs of others: "...us..."

By teaching us to pray "Give *us* this day *our* daily bread," Jesus is teaching us love and compassion toward others. We don't only seek to secure provision for ourselves; we seek to secure provision for others (Matt 5:42-46, Mic 7:18, Gal 6:10).

3. Trusting God for tomorrow, asking for today: "...this day our daily..."

None of us knows what a day may bring forth, and therefore we're forbidden to boast about tomorrow (Prov 27:1), or even to worry about it (Matt 6:34).

4. Desiring not riches, asking only for God's provision: "...bread"

"Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread" (Prov 30:7-9). "Lord, help me to be content with whatever You are pleased to give me. I will not ask for more than I need. Forgive me for all forms of self-indulgence and distrust" (D. Thomas). "Contentment means being at ease with God's provision for our lives" (S. Ferguson).

Cyprian: "Their property held them in chains... chains which shackled their courage and choked their faith and hampered... their judgment and throttled their souls... They think of themselves as owners, whereas it is they rather who are owned; enslaved as they are to their own property, they are not the masters of their money but its slaves."

Application

1. To those in school: *Consider the needs of others in choosing a career*

"...working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need" (Eph 4:28)

2. To those not Christians: *"fight not against the Lord with [his] benefits"*

One day you will "give an account of your stewardship" (Luke 16:2, 12:47-48).

3. To those with little more than daily provision: *We're committed to your needs.*

The church is to you like Elijah with the widow of Zarephath, The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry" (1Ki 17:9-14).