

When You Pray...Part 5

Matthew 6:9-13

“The Provision of Prayer”

INTRODUCTION:

Today we look at ‘The Provision of Prayer.’ When we go to our prayer closets we must open our hearts to allow God’s provision to become our reality. Some of us are stuck in a mindset that says I’ll do it myself, and then when I can’t, I’ll allow God to help me. This often is unknowing arrogance because as contingent creatures, meaning we can’t do anything without Him literally, God is already providing even when we believe it is still us in control. Consider existence itself.

God is Existence, and grants others to exist, through allowing creatures to borrow Existence from Himself even those that deny His existence. What a picture of provision and grace.

So in other words to simply exist we are already in debt to God for providing a way, not to mention our sin debt paid out through the work of Jesus.

Note: Many of us confuse ‘want’ and ‘need.’ This is why our prayer closets are filled with ‘want’ requests. This is why many have come to reduce the Creator God to a mere Santa Claus figure for adults rather than the God of Wonder that the Bible explains Him to be. At times, we must stop and reevaluate our ‘wants’ to make sure that we haven’t forgotten our real ‘needs’. What are our real needs? Ask yourself in this moment what do I really need?

Text:

Our Father in heaven,
Your name be honored as holy.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.]

I. The Fear & Frailty

Robert L Short

The Childish Idea That Prayer Is A Handle By Which We Can Take Hold Of God And Obtain Whatever We Desire, Leads To Easy Disillusionment With Both What We Had Thought To Be God And What We Had Thought To Be Prayer.

Matthew 6:25-34

“This is why I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they? Can any of you add a single cubit to his height by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? Learn how the wildflowers of the field grow: they don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these! If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t He do much more for you—you of little faith? So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For the idolaters eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. Therefore don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

II. The Faith

Dallas Willard

“The cautious faith that never saws off a limb on which it is sitting, never learns that unattached limbs may find strange unaccountable ways of not falling.”

Hebrews 11:5-6

Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.

Samuel Rutherford

I Will Charge My Soul To Believe And Wait For Him, And Will Follow His Providence, And Not Go Before It, Nor Stay Behind It.

III. The Focus

Bill Patterson

If You Have A Special Need Today, Focus Your Full Attention On The Goodness And Greatness Of Your Father Rather Than On The Size Of Your Need. Your Need Is Tiny Compared To His Ability To Meet It.

James 4:13-14

You don’t even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes.

CONCLUSION

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

What A Serene And Quiet Life Might You Lead If You Would Leave Providing To The God Of Providence! With A Little Oil In The Cruse, And A Handful Of Meal In The Barrel, Elijah Outlived The Famine, And You Will Do The Same. If God Cares For You, Why Need You Care Too? Can You Trust Him For Your Soul, And Not For Your Body? He Has Never Refused To Bear Your Burdens, He Has Never Fainted Under Their Weight. Come, Then, Soul! Have Done With Fretful Care, And Leave All Thy Concerns In The Hand Of A Gracious God.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Patricia Winters

Giver Of Life And All Good Gifts, Grant Us Also Wisdom To Use Only What We Need, Courage To Trust Our Bounty, Imagination To Preserve Our Resources, Determination To Deny Frivolous Excess, And Inspiration To Sustain Through Temptation. Patricia Winters