

# LIFE GROUP STUDY

## *Your will be done...*

The older I get the more I want to pray this third petition of the Lord's Prayer. There are two reasons for this.

First, the older I get the more I realize I do not know how to make life work. There was a time when I thought I did know. But the world is becoming increasingly complex. I am becoming more aware of the complex interplay between the mind and the heart and the body and the feelings and fears. I look back on a number of turning points in my life, and now rejoice that "my will" was not done. As good as it might have been, "my will" was not as well informed as I thought.

I like how Helmut Thielicke put it, *In the last analysis we know very little about our real needs, about what we lack and what we need. So we often pray for foolish things, when what we need is something totally different. We are naked, and instead of praying for clothing we pray for a fancy hat. We are imprisoned by certain passions . . . and instead of praying for freedom we pray for a Persian rug for our cell.*

So often we pray for senseless things that have no relation to our needs. And the reason is that we do not know the deepest wants and necessities of our life at all. "O Father, you do know. Your will be done!"

*Darrell Johnson "Fifty-Seven words that changed the world"*

**Question :** Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus did highly value the physical, social, and emotional needs of people? Why is the miracle of feeding 5000 people such a prominent miracle in the bible?

## *Give us this day our daily bread...*

So, what is it that Jesus teaches us to pray for in the fourth petition? For physical bread. For everything necessary for functioning in this world. For everything we need to live a kingdom life. For spiritual sustenance. For Jesus himself! For something of the glorious future when we shall never hunger again. Now remember why Jesus teaches us the Lord's Prayer: to free us from the burden of wondering if our prayers are acceptable to God. Jesus is saying, "Here is prayer

*Darrell Johnson "Fifty-Seven words that changed the world"*

**Question :** Is there anything too little, or too self focused, to ask our heavenly father about? Why or why not?

**Question :** What happens when, in your heart, you desire for God's will to be done but the item you are petitioning God for is outside his purposes and will?

### *Give us this day our daily bread...*

Praying this “one day at a time” prayer, of course, poses a crisis of faith. Is the Father of Jesus able to provide one day at a time? Is the Father of Jesus faithful to provide? Will he come through tomorrow and the next day, and the next day, until we are finally in the Promised Land?

Yes, God is able. More than able. As Annie Johnson Flint sings, “When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, our Father’s full giving is only begun.”

We think we will have peace of mind if we ask God to provide today what we need for the future. But, as Dallas Willard points out, to have provisions in hand today does not guarantee we will have them tomorrow when we need them. Willard writes, *“Today I have God, and he has the provisions. Tomorrow it will be the same. I will have God and he will have the provisions. So I simply ask God today for what I need for today.”*

*Darrell Johnson “Fifty-Seven words that changed the world”*

**Question :** Why did Jesus warn us against becoming overanxious about the future and trying to get every detail solved?

**Question :** Do you think you live a life of leaning on God for provision for today and trusting Him about tomorrow or are you more self dependent, or a long range planner, or fearful?

**Question :** How do we practice dependency on God when we are so easily able to provide for ourselves without God’s because we live in a wealthy society? Do you have the kind of faith that can give your possessions away because you have faith God will provide daily even without the security net?