

# Teach Us to Pray: “Our Daily Bread”

*Matthew 6:11*

## **Daily Bread? (v. 11)**

- Despite how we normally pray, Jesus does not start this prayer by asking for physical needs
  - In fact, this is the only line of the prayer that has any request for physical things
- But what is ‘daily’ bread?
  - The word used here (ἐπιούσιον) only appears in two places in the Bible (Matt 6:11; Luke 11:3)
    - And is not attested to anywhere else in the ancient world before this
    - It comes from the words ἐπὶ (upon) & οὐσία (existence)
      - But there have been severe debates throughout history as to its meaning
- However, the key to understanding what Jesus is saying is found in the OT prayer this is likely based upon: The prayer of Agur (Pro 30:7-9)

## **The Prayer of Agur (Pro. 30:7-9)**

- This prayer of wisdom centers on seeking:
  - To be honest
  - To be content
- The Hebrew text uses the metaphor of the need for daily food
- While the Greek text explains the symbolism as what is necessary & sufficient

## **God’s Provision**

- Jesus teaches us to pray for:
  - Necessities: The essential things of life we need to survive
  - Contentment: The state of being where we realize that we have all that we need
- It is a declaration of trust in God to provide what we need
- When we start seeking things outside of God’s provision two things can happen:
  - We find false fulfillment in earthly things
    - Losing our focus on God
  - Or, we fail to have what we need and may resort to sinful ways of trying to meet our needs
  - Both of which lead to discontentment
- Notice that Jesus’ request is for what is needed for today
  - This is a declaration of a daily reliance on God’s provision
    - Like manna in the wilderness

## **So What?**

- Are we asking God to give us just what we need?
- Are we trusting His provision?

**Meditation Verse:** *Matthew 6:11*