

**THE LORD'S PRAYER WEEK FIVE
GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD...**

OUR DAILY BREAD. We now turn a corner in the Lord's Prayer: from the HEIGHTS OF HEAVEN/HOLINESS OF GOD, we pray for personal needs. In light WHO GOD IS-both loving/ holy, and our promising to be a part of his GOOD PURPOSES- only then do we pray for OURSELVES, and what we need to live the Christ life. Having started with God, not our WISH LIST, we come to God as we are.

THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY...daily bread evokes the image of MANNA, the story of the JEWS IN WILDERNESS, and their journey to the Promise Land. Their sinfulness turned a 1-week trip into a 40-year ordeal. God warned them only to gather a day's supply of Manna; if they hoarded it, it would SPOIL OVERNIGHT. They got sick of it; their complaints resumed; and so they begged for meat. God gave them meat but not without a stern lesson: not to take his gifts for granted. Daily, we must reach out God as he reaches out to us. Then one day we wake up the truth: our lives only have meaning/significance because they are gifts from God.

GIVE US WHAT WE NEED...the plea is: give us what is sufficient. To pray for more might tempt us think that WE COULD LIVE WITHOUT GOD. In a culture of abundance/over-consumption, we should pray to know WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, and to have the courage to say "NO" when the world entices to live as consumers. In Jesus' day, most people lived a heartbeat away from starvation. The words "DAILY BREAD" had special meaning to them. God paid special attention to those who had nothing. Against our society's lies, against our own good judgment, this prayer reminds us our DEPENDENCE ON GOD. We must face the truth: we are LACKING and INCOMPLETE. We have NEEDS/LIMITS that we prefer to hide.

**WHAT ARE OUR DAILY NEEDS? WHAT IS IT THAT WE LACK? WHATEVER IT IS,
WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT IT IS OF CONCERN TO GOD**

DON'T BE SHY, ASK...God never forbids us to pray for personal/physical needs. Any idea that Christianity is an OTHERWORDLY TRIP to NEVER-NEVER LAND gets dismissed as the Lord's Prayer gets down to the nitty gritty. We pray for the needs at hand, bring concerns for our families, health, relationships. We pray for patience, wisdom, and compassion. The needs that come daily, even hourly. We aren't asking for luxury but for day-to-day provisions, and day-to-day survival. Praying this prayer honestly, we take a major step toward CONTENTMENT, to join with Paul...

**I'VE LEARNED TO BE CONTENT WITH WHATEVER I HAVE, WHAT IT IS TO HAVE
LITTLE/PLENTY. I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST**