



## GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

**O**UR Father in heaven, we have prayed for the sanctifying of your name. We have prayed for the coming of your kingdom, and that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. We now implore you to give us this day, and day by day our daily bread. For you have taught us through your Son to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, trusting that all other needful things such as our daily bread will then be given to us. *Matt. 6:9-11; Luke 11:3; Matt. 6:33.*

Keep deception and falsehood as a way of personal gain far from us. Give us neither poverty nor riches. Satisfy us with the amount of bread you ordain for us. Do not give us too much, for then we may deny you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Do not give us too little, for then we may steal and take your name in vain. Forgive us whenever we pray selfishly, asking only for daily bread for ourselves. Help us to earnestly pray for the needs of others. Satisfy your poor with bread. Let us despise any gain that might come from oppression. Let us walk in righteousness. Let us keep our hands empty of bribes, so we can fully enjoy your blessing on the highest heights. Let the place of our defence against all the assaults of our enemy be found in a rocky fortification that cannot be penetrated. Give us an adequate supply of bread, and let our supply of water never fail. *Prov. 30:8, 9; Psa. 132:15; Isa. 33:15, 16.*

Let us never crave for delicacies, since that kind of food distorts the true nature of the godly life. Let us never long to live in luxury, wrongly reasoning that we have not yet received our rightful share of good things in our lifetime. Instead, help us to simply pray for bread that is enough to sustain our life. Guard our hearts from ever desiring food we might get through deception. Make it repulsive to us

to even think of drinking stolen waters. Deliver us from wanting to eat the bread of idleness. If it is your will, let us eat the fruit of our labour, the work of our own hands. Give us the grace to work quietly and eat our own bread. Let us be content to have food and clothing so we can honestly say, 'We have all we need, and even more.' *Prov. 23:3; Luke 16:19, 25; Psa. 104:15; Prov. 20:17; 9:17; 31:27; Psa. 128:2; 1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:8; Phil. 4:18.*

Lord, bless the resources you have given us, and accept the work of our hands. Make us able to provide for our family, for all those who are a part of our household. As far as it is proper, let us leave an inheritance for our children's children. Let the favour of the Lord our God rest on us. Establish the work of our hands for us – yes, the work of our hands, make it endure. Lord, bless our land with the choice things that descend from heaven above, and with the finest yield of the sun and the seasons. But above all, let us have the goodwill of him that dwelt in the bush, even the blessing that rested on the head of Joseph, on the top of the head of him who was prince among his brothers. *Deut. 33:11; 1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 13:22; Psa. 90:17; Deut. 33:13, 14, 16.*

But if the fig tree should not bud, and there should be no fruit on the vine; if the labour spent on the olive tree should fail, and the fields should yield no food; if the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there should be no cattle in the stall; yet let us rejoice in our COVENANT LORD, and be joyful in the God of our salvation. *Hab. 3:17, 18.*

Father, we do not ask for bread that would be enough for a long time in the future. We only ask that we may have for this day our daily bread. For we would learn not to take any anxious thought about tomorrow. Keep us from worrying about what we shall eat or drink, or what we shall have for clothing. Help us to thrust all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Increase our trust in you, our heavenly Father, who knows we need all these things. Teach

us to look with faith to you, the one who feeds the birds of the air, even though they never sow a single seed or reap a single grain of wheat. Let us trust that you will be sure to feed us, who are much more valuable than many little birds. *Matt.* 6:11, 31, 32; 10:31.