



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

www.buildingfathershouse.org

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 9 : “Give us our portion” – we must only desire our portion, no less no more.

*Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or; What shall we drink? or; Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; **for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.** But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. **Matthews 6:31-33***

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret of “give us our daily bread” in our prayer-life.

Intended Goal: To understand the **secret behind the power of prayer** as we place our trust in God and in His ability to provide, as we submit ourselves to God and His Word in a **lifestyle** of prayer.

Scripture readings : (most taken from American Standard version)

*Give us this day our daily bread. **Matthew 6:11***

*But **He said unto them, Give ye them to eat.** And they said, **We have no more than five loaves and two fishes;** except we should go and buy food for all this people. **Luke 9:13***

*And his disciples answered him, **Whence shall one be able to fill these men with bread here in a desert place?** And he asked them, **How many loaves have ye?** And they said, **Seven.** And he commandeth the multitude to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and **having given thanks, he brake, and gave to his disciples, to set before them; and they set them before the multitude. Mark 8:4-6***

Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. And when the seven among the four thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces took ye up? And they say unto him, Seven. Mark 8:17-20

*And Jesus perceiving it saith unto them, **Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? do ye not yet perceive, neither understand? have ye your heart hardened? Mark 8:17***

*But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4***

*And he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs.** But she said, **Yea, Lord: for even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.** Then Jesus answered*

and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it done unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was healed from that hour. Matthew 15:26-28

*And he charged them that they should **take nothing for [their] journey, save a staff only; no bread, no wallet, no money in their purse; Mark 6:8***

But when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish here with hunger! Luke 15:17

*Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, **He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.** Jesus therefore said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **It was not Moses that gave you the bread out of heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which cometh down out of heaven, and giveth life unto the world.** They said therefore unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. Jesus said unto them. **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, that ye have seen me, and yet believe not. John 6:34-36***

*I am the bread of life. **Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which cometh down out of heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: yea and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.** The Jews therefore strove one with another, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Jesus therefore said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have not life in yourselves. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life: and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. **He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood abideth in me, and I in him.** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so he that eateth me, he also shall live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven: not as the fathers ate, and died; he that eateth this bread shall live for ever. John 6:48-58*

Food for thought :

In considering “**give us this day our daily bread**”, it is a continuation of the family structure, referring to “**us**” and “**our**” as a collective body, the **body of Christ**. Here is the first request within the example prayer, and it is not asking for self but collectively. In considering the nature of the request, being “**daily bread**” that can be translated as **daily portion**, is also a request in acknowledging **our daily dependency on God**, as in a relationship, where **He provides for our living** (food for the body and for spirit), **Jesus is the living bread**.

Also we must know that at the time Jesus taught His disciple how to pray, **Jesus was collectively part of this request, explaining the partnership between man and God that came into existence through Jesus Christ as our mediator**. Looking at the **miracle of the loaves**, Jesus had compassion on the multitude but asked **His disciples to feed them**, it is a partnership where the **disciples gave what they have into the hands of our Lord Jesus who received it, and multiplied it in the hands of the disciples**. In this partnership with God, we declare that we are not able in ourselves to provide according to “**our**” needs. **But in partnership with God we acknowledge His ability to provide according to “our” the collective body of Christ's needs**. Please note it is not 'my' bread but 'our' the collective body of Christ. James 3:14-17 states the importance of focusing on the collective body and not on the self!

The “**give us this day our daily bread**” phrase has not to do with us as in “**give unto us**” as in asking - **commanding our portion**, it deals with God and God's will. We are placing as a collective “**our**” body of believers **our trust in God as we exercise our faith by asking “give us our daily bread”** meaning give us according to thy will, that what we need for this day. We **focus on the kingdom of God**, knowing that **God knows what we have need of**, but in asking we also

say, **whatever we received, we acknowledge that it is our portion for this day**, therefore we are being content. Contentment is based on the believe that **whatever we ask for we will receive, so asking in faith, for our daily bread, we receive in faith according to God's provision**. Whatever God gave, we accept as adequate for this day, we are the instrument that God want to use in His hands, therefore **whatsoever He decided to give is whatsoever we need**.

The mentioned is based upon that **faith is a verb, it require action, asking in faith is the act, likewise receiving in faith is an act of acknowledging that it is answered prayer**. Asking therefore "for our daily portion" **we must be in expectancy to receive our daily portion, is also expecting.**

When Jesus went to the Samaritan women at Jacobs well, and the disciples brought Him some bread to eat, He replied, "... **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work. John 4:34**". **Jesus received His portion for the day**. Likewise when Jesus was tempted by the enemy in the wilderness, "And **Jesus answered unto him, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone. Luke 4:4**" When we ask me must be in expectancy to receive, but in receiving we must receive with contentment, **and in faith that in God we trust to provide what is needed**.

Faith is **the substance**, meaning to "**stand under,"submit-** that is to be a foundation. We asking in submission, likewise we must receive in submission - acknowledging God's will in what we received. Faith is the foundation on which all our hopes for the future are built.

In asking for our bread, **we do not dictate on what we need**, for the Bible say that **our Father knows what we need**, we just place **our trust in our Father to provide to our needs**. We must be in expectancy, **with our eyes on the provider, and not the provision**. The thing is if we focus on the provision we take our eyes from the provider and in the event we might find ourself struggling to see the Kingdom and our pilgrimage to a better city becomes a burden. The Bible warns us not to depart our heart from God and trust in flesh, for such a man shall be cursed and he will not be able to see the good coming, **because he is looking for something he miss that what the Lord send**. "For he shall be like the heath in the desert, **and shall not see when good cometh**, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, a salt land and not inhabited". **Jeremiah 17:6 He who looks to the Lord is the opposite 'like a tree planted by the waters' Jeremiah:8**.

True story :

In 2004 I was blessed to be in Israel, during my time in Israel I met a man that surrendered his life unto God, trusting not in himself and in his own inability, but continually kept his eyes on the Lord for provision. One day we were walking in the streets of Jerusalem, and as we crossed a road, this friend of mine spotted two sweets that must have felt from someone's pocket, or carry bag. He picked it up and as he handed me one of the sweet he gave thanks to God for His provision. What struck me the most is that his thanksgiving was sincere as a reaction to the blessing we received.

The story of Abraham, a man who placed his trust in God "*And it came to pass after these things, that God did prove Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham; and he said, Here am I. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he clave the wood for the burnt-offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold, the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering? And Abraham said, God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son: so*

they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of Jehovah called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here I am. And he said, Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, behind [him] a ram caught in the thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of Jehovah it shall be provided. And the angel of Jehovah called unto Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith Jehovah, because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son”, Gen 22:1-16 God requires a love relationship based on trust, Abraham did not struggle in the task that was set before him, he just continued to walk, **not looking at his circumstances, but he looked at God.**

Jesus feeding the multitudes “Jesus therefore lifting up his eyes, and seeing that a great multitude cometh unto him, saith unto Philip, **Whence are we to buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him:** for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred shillings' worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, **There is a lad here, who hath five barley loaves, and two fishes: but what are these among so many?** Jesus said, Make the people sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, he distributed to them that were set down; likewise also of the fishes as much as they would. And when they were filled, he saith unto his disciples, Gather up the broken pieces which remain over, that nothing be lost. So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves, which remained over unto them that had eaten.” John 6:5-13 Jesus foreknew what He is going to do, **but tested the disciples, to see if they are prepared to come into the partnership** in trusting Him and His ability, or will they continue in their own inability.

God's authority :

“For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show **Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him....**” 2 Chronicles 16:9

“They looked unto Him, and were radiant; And their faces shall never be confounded. **This poor man cried, and Jehovah heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.** The angel of Jehovah encampeth round about them that fear Him, And delivereth them. **Oh taste and see that Jehovah is good: Blessed is the man that taketh refuge in Him.** Oh fear Jehovah, ye His saints; **For there is no want to them that fear Him.** The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; **But they that seek Jehovah shall not want any good thing.**” Psalms 34:5-10

“[[A Psalm] of David]. Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, Neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. **Trust in Jehovah, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on [His] faithfulness.** Delight thyself also in Jehovah; **And He will give thee the desires of thy heart.** Commit thy way unto Jehovah; **Trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass.** And he will make thy righteousness to go forth as the light, And thy justice as the noon-day. **Rest in Jehovah, and wait patiently for Him:** Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, Because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: Fret not thyself, [it tendeth] only to evil-doing. For evil-doers shall be cut off; But those that wait for Jehovah, they shall inherit the land.” Psalm 37:1-9

“**These wait all for Thee, That Thou mayest give them their food in due season.** Thou givest unto them, they gather; Thou openest Thy hand, they are satisfied with good”. Psalm 104:27-28

“**For He satisfieth the longing soul, And the hungry soul He filleth with good**”. Psalm 107:9

“**Thou openest Thy hand, And satisfiest the desire of every living thing**”. Psalm 145:16

*Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, **And lean not upon thine own understanding: In all thy ways acknowledge Him, And he will direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6***

*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard? The everlasting God, Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint. **Isaiah 40:28-31***

*Be not therefore anxious, saying, **What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?** For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; **for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first His kingdom, and His righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you. **Matthew 6:31-33***

*John answered and said, **A man can receive nothing, except it have been given him from heaven. John 3:27***

*Jesus answered and said unto her, **Every one that drinketh of this water shall thirst again: John 4:13***

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: **and that [life] which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, [the faith] which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20***

*but as it is written, **Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, And [which] entered not into the heart of man, Whatsoever things God prepared for them that love Him. But unto us God revealed [them] through the Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 1Corinthians 2:9-10***

*Now unto **Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him [be] the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21***

*“I have been young, and now I am old, yet **I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread**” – **Psalm. 37: 25***

Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: Thou maintainest my lot. Psalm 16:5

My flesh and my heart faileth; [But] God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever. Psalm 73:26

I cried unto thee, O Jehovah; I said, Thou art my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Psalm 142:5

Instead of your shame [ye shall have] double; and instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be unto them. Isaiah 61:7

Jehovah is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him. Lamentation 3:24

Conclusion :

Today there is a tendency to say that we should be very specific in what we ask, so that we can receive that what we asked. Well, looking at the Word of God, I believe in asking specifically, we are limited to our understanding. God said that He have install for us who love Him “*Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, And [which] entered not into the heart of man, Whatsoever things God prepared for them that love Him.*” **1 Corinthians 2:9-10** also it is said that God is able “... **to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,**”. To trust God, and His insight and willingness to give is much better, for then we can receive far more than what we could have ask for, our asking in limited to our understanding. God is however not limited in His understanding, we in our inability to trust God, is the only limitation. The Bible say “ **lean not upon thine own understanding: In all thy ways acknowledge Him**”

Looking at God's authority, we as the collective body of Christ should be anxious to place our trust "hearts" upon God so that we can be expectant to receive not according to our desire but according to God's plan. God is looking for someone who is trusting in Him so that He can show Himself strong!

In considering "*Give us this day our daily bread*". *Matthew 6:11* as a statement of faith, believing in God and His ability, knowing that we can trust God to provide according to our needs. Then we live in the victory of the cross, saying "Thy will be done" .

In *Matthew 6:31* there is a clear statement that when we ask we need not ask like the gentiles who at that time did not know God. But now in the knowledge of Christ and in the oneness of faith in Him we as the collective body of Christ, can pray the Lord's prayer not in petition but in expressing our faith and trust in Him, for we know Him. We know He loves us more than anyone on earth. He sent His own Son to die for us!

The miracle of the loaves is the example, that is set before us, an example of trust. Jesus as the Son of the living God, who knew His Father and His ability, did not consider the impossibility, He looked unto God in the knowledge of whatever seemed impossible for us is possible for God! The disciples being not yet filled with the Spirit of God, first looked at the impossibility in comparison to what they have and what is expected from them. In our understanding, limited as it is the disciples explained the impossibility of the request. Jesus however knew the Father, in His understanding of the Father, He knew the Father knew what was needed, therefore He lifted His eyes unto the Father. Likewise when Abraham walked up the mountain with Isaac, he did not consider his own understanding, he only looked upon God and His ability-a perfect partnership.

When we ask for **our** daily bread it means that we ask for that which **our Father has allotted to us**. We ask for that which He in His grace has measured off for us for this day. We are glad to receive our daily portion from His hand. And we don't ask anything more but that what we receive, and **we receive it with content, gladness and satisfaction**. Why do we need to ask God for our daily portion? A lot of people and even Christians is of the opinion that we are the workers of our own portion. But in considering what Jesus taught His disciples, when He said that we must ask "give us our daily bread" we see it has nothing to do with us, it is not about us it is about God and **the way we partnership with God**. In receiving we must also acknowledge that in asking we asked for our bread as a collective body of Christ, likewise in receiving we are receiving on the basis of this is our bread, the collective body of Christ.

Questions to be answered :

1. Why, or for what purpose do we ask for 'our' bread?
2. Where or in what is our victory?
3. What is the meaning of substance?
4. Is faith a noun or a verb and what does it mean?
5. How do limit ourselves in our prayer life?