

Episode 020

Requesting for God's provision (Being Prayerful Series)

Introduction

Matthew 6:11 (NIV) Give us today our daily bread.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a famous theologian, once said about prayer, “What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him. That is what gives Christian prayer its boundless confidence and its joyous certainty. We simply make petitions and requests to One who has the heart of a Father.”

God desires us to approach Him. He is the Good, Good Father.

Matthew 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

1. Ask for Papa God

James 4:2 (NIV) You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

God desires to communicate to Him what's needed. Why? God is generous. He desires to provide for us. God is committed to providing for our daily needs as we seek first His Kingdom!

Be confident that God will provide our daily needs. By doing so, we are also keeping our prayer life alive as we devote ourselves to the Lord in prayer on a daily basis. God desires us to draw from Him our daily nourishment, not live on previous day's experience in God. Remember the “manna” experience in Exodus 16:19-20.



Exodus 16:16-20 (NIV) 16 This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'" 17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed. 19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning." 20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

The Lord desires us to be dependent upon Him. Matt 6:25-34, we are not to be anxious in our asking but trust in Him as He provided for the birds and flowers of the fields so supernaturally.

Matthew 6:31-34 (NIV) 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

We are to not just ask for the things we need, but also for provision for families, in our church and communities and nations of the world.

2. Trust in God's abundant supply

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

He is our limitless supplier. El Shaddai the God of "more than enough", God our Sufficiency. It is in the heart and nature of God to be generous to us.

We are not to hoard God's blessings for ourselves but to share it with others. So that others may be blessed as well. Our God is the supernatural God who answers prayers in a supernatural way.



3. Make your request known

Luke 11:9-10 (NIV) So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

When you pray, do so with perseverance and tenacity. Continue to ask and thank the Lord in advance for His response until we experience an answer to our prayers.

God wants to bless as long as it is in accordance to His will! Do expect God to answer creatively as well. It may not always be the way we wish it to be. He is our Creator God and knows what we need best!

4. All we have belongs to God

We are merely His stewards. Be grateful to Him and His provision! Be wise in how we utilise God's provisions to extend His Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NIV) So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Remember to offer to God what's due to Him according to His Word. Let's not hold back from Him. It is called the tithe. Proverbs 3:9 - 10 (NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

When we tithe, we show that we honour Him as the Lord of all we have. Let your life and our church be likened to an artesian well of life where God prospers us to be a blessing to others! That we be faithful to Him!

God's blessings will overtake us if we obey Him. (Deut 28:1-14). When we obey the Lord, we are showing that we trust in who He is and His ways.



Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. Share a testimony of how God provided for you recently, no matter how big or small, give God the glory.
2. What aspect is God challenging you in trusting for His provision.





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