

# The LPG

## *Our Daily Bread of Life*

January 17, 2021

**Welcome to where we're learning to pray the LPG way!**



LPG stands for the Lord's Prayer Guide – which gives us a format to follow and personalize; and directs us to begin each day **adoring our Dad**, and **revering our Creator**, and **discussing our hallowing** obedience and trust, and **kneeling to our King** to plan the advance of Dad's kingdom, and **praying for willpower** to do His will *by His power*. And the line we're looking at today is:



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



This is how we know Jesus intended the LPG to be a daily practice.



**Do you find it hard to hear God?** Especially when we need His provision in our life? Know why that mostly is? **We mostly want Him on our own terms.** And know what I find odd? Believers who rarely read or listen to His Word, and then complain that He doesn't speak. What's so odd is our willful blindness to the obvious connection between **hearing the Lord and knowing His Word.** I mean, He's gone to all that trouble to send us the ultimate text message!



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in *righteousness* ... – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV



See? It's all about guiding and directing and instructing and all the things we need when we really need God to speak. But who wants "righteousness"? Well, those who listen quietly, daily so they can hear Him loud and clear in the moment of truth. Because **He chiefly speaks through what He spoke.**



In Jesus' day, bread was baked (and consumed) on a daily basis. So for many, at some point, this was a very *literal* prayer. This is a 2000-year-old baker's oven that was in use in Jesus' day. Volcanic ash buried it in Pompeii. And it was found with 81 loaves of perfectly preserved carbonized bread inside! I think it's done! We even know who baked 'em! That stamp on the left is a baker's mark. Ranius baked this loaf of daily bread about ten years after Matthew recorded Jesus saying, "Give us this day our daily bread."



As blessed American believers, **we mostly take our daily bread for granted;** because our breadbaskets are generally overly full and our pantries are full of pastries! In fact, you know how un-relatable this statement seems? We're far more likely to pray, "Give me this day the willpower to stop eating so much bread!" We eat so much bread we've become gluten intolerant!



This “LINE” of the LPG doesn’t seem so timeless. You’d think Jesus would’ve had more foresight ... I mean, that’s what one would think if they didn’t know His Word – which, by the way, He refers to as the true daily bread of life from heaven. But, this line is a very specific quote from Proverbs.

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. [This prayer works both sides of the tracks! Brilliant. It prays both ways:] Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you [because I allow myself to be distracted from my daily dependence and gratitude] and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ [because I no longer sense my hunger for righteousness] Or I may become poor and steal, [‘cause that’s how I roll when I need me some rolls] and so dishonor the name of my God. – Proverbs 30:8-9 NIV

**It’s easy to pray for less poverty, but less prosperity?** How un-American! But, **how often does your abundance distract your daily devotion?** Worse yet, do you ever pray for more success in the very thing that comes between? So, how much is *too* much? Well, you have to decide that; but just ask yourself how much it takes to disrupt your daily devotion? And then, assuming you’ll find the time to squeeze in our Father, just ask Dad to help you cut back.

But how do you **pray for less of a good thing**? You don’t. You **pray for more of a better thing**. Beginning with asking the Lord to **increase our daily gratitude**. When you’re praying try picturing Costco and then fill those shelves with appreciation. Better yet, thank Him at Costco!



And when our pantry are filled with a pallet of pastries, we need to ask the Lord to **increase our daily dependence**. This is the problem Moses saw coming and warned those entering the Promised Land (that flowed with milk and honey and giant Costco-size clusters of grapes).



Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments ... otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied ... you will forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commands who ... led you ... [and] fed you manna ... [and] say in your heart, “My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.” But you shall remember the Lord your God by keeping His commandments – Deut 8:11-18 NAS



[A huge for-instance being] Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ... [and] Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12:30-31 NIV

So let’s definitely ask the Lord to **increase our daily compassion**. Remember Dad’s position on hoarding more than the daily manna-bread?

It bred worms and stank. – Exodus 16:19-20 NKJ

“Bread worms won’t cut it! Make it “stank” to high heaven!” That’s what you call, the je ne sais quoi of **the putrid sin of receiving Dad’s blessing while ignoring His command**. And it’s not “give me my bread”? It’s “give US this day OUR daily bread”. So if I *know* my pantry’s full, I better talk to Dad about lightening my load by blessing those of *us* less fortunate.

Because, when our breadbox is full, we need a daily reminder to fill our heart with **gratitude** and **dependence** and **compassion**. And if your pantry's low, lean into what you've stored up in your heart and listen for His voice and pray for **less anxieties** and **more opportunities**.

And now, I'd be remiss not to mention that the same Savior who taught His disciples to pray in this way, saying "give us this day our daily bread," also said that **He's the True Bread**, and that "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word ... from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)



So just know that whatever trial, hurdle, test, or disaster we might face in our moment of truth, **the truest provision will always come from knowing the Words of the Truest Bread**, who is also called the Word, and the Word became flesh, (Jn 1:1, 14) and His flesh is the Bread of Life.



So however you slice it, **we can't receive Christ without embracing His Word**. Did you know that one of the most slanderous charges against early believers (based on one of Jesus' most controversial statements), was that they practiced ritual cannibalism. Referring to the daily manna-bread, Jesus said (at the synagogue in Capernaum):

[My Father] gives you the True Bread from heaven. For the Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. ... I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty. ... I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. ... This Bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. ... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ... Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. ... so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the Bread that came down from heaven. ... The Words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are Life." ... "words of Eternal Life." – John 6:32-69 NIV

I'm surprised *more* arrests weren't made! We're told the Jews argued, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" And many of Jesus' disciples left Him, saying, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" (Jn 6:52, 60) Anyone who can answer this: **What feeds on human flesh and blood even though they're never hungry or thirsty?** Any guesses? Babies. Abiding in the womb. Connected to the umbilical cord of three strands (two arteries and one main vine – I mean, vein), the mother's fountain of life, abiding in this new little branch of the family tree, who has yet to feel hunger and thirst. Now listen again and **picture Dad's um ... Biblical cord-of-three-strands reaching down from heaven** as the True Vine attaching to those who abide in Him.

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The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and died for us, so that we who come to Him and believe in Him and receive new life through His sacrifice for our sin, are reborn and connected to Him and nourished through the um ... Biblical cord-of-three-strands – Father, Son, and Spirit.



Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor? – Jeremiah 30:6-7 ESV



Behold, the wicked man conceives evil ... and gives birth to lies. – Psalm 7:14 ESV

[They] give birth to evil, and their womb prepares deceit. – Job 15:23-24, 30-35 ESV

Do not be deceived ... every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ... [who] gave us birth by the Word of Truth, – James 1:16-18 NAS

“Now will I arise ... now will I be lifted up. You conceive chaff, you give birth to straw ... **[But]** He who walks righteously ... his bread will be supplied,” – Isaiah 33:10-16 NIV

“Behold My Servant, whom I uphold, My Chosen ... He will not cry aloud ... not grow faint ... till He has established justice in the earth ... a covenant for the people, a Light for the nations” ... The Lord goes out ... He cries out ... “For a long time I have held My peace ... now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.” – Isaiah 42:1-14 ESV

I hear a cry as of a woman in labor ... gasping for breath, stretching out her hands and saying, “Alas! I am fainting; my life is given over to murderers.” – Jeremiah 4:31 NIV

And Jesus cried out ... and breathed His last. – Mark 15:37 NKJ

The people have been offered new birth, but they are like a child who resists being born. How stubborn they are! How foolish! – Hosea 13:13 NLT

Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. – John 3:3 NKJ

Only one man in the Bible actually gave birth to another human. The first Adam. The Lord pierced his side and formed his bride; and together they died. (Gen 2:21-22; 3:3) However ...

As in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ... The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. – 1 Cor 15:22, 45 ESV

One of the soldiers pierced His side ... and at once there came out blood and water. – John 19:34 ESV

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God ... This is He who came by water and blood ... And the Spirit is the One who testifies, – 1 John 5:1, 6 ESV

Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery? ... You will nurse and be satisfied ... As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; – Isaiah 66:9-13 NIV

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, – 1 Peter 2:2-3 NKJ  
Taste and see that the Lord is good; – Psalm 34:8 NKJ

Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, – Colossians 3:16 NAS

We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine ... grow up – Ephesians 4:14-15 NKJ

Do not be children in understanding ... be mature. – 1 Corinthians 14:20 NKJ

... that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJ

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. – 2 Corinthians 11:3 ESV

For everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the Word of Righteousness. – Hebrews 5:13-14 NRS

But who wants “**righteousness**”? Well, those who want to **pray**, “give us this day *only* our daily bread”; and then **pause** to consider our true needs, our true abundance, and our True Bread; and then **personalize** by deciding which side of the tracks – poverty or prosperity – we need to pray regarding each. Because, as Amos said, most of the well-fed are in the midst of a famine.

Not a famine of bread ... but of hearing the words of the Lord. – Amos 8:11 NKJ

**Let’s not be shocked when it’s hard to hear ... if we can’t stand to listen.**

**Satan has an outrageously simple strategy: starvation. Not to death, just to weakness and confusion.** And he’s at it on a daily basis, right under our nose. And that’s where we defeat him.

**What’re you storing up?** I hope it doesn’t have that certain je ne sais quoi. Because what you seek is what you get; and **what we store is how He’ll speak, and strengthen, and support, in that moment of truth.** He who has eyes to see and ears to hear ... let him eat.

After all, **eating is believing.**

Now let’s memorize together what we must personalize alone.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. YOUR kingdom come. YOUR will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. – Matthew 6:9-13 NKJ