



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday we turned, with Jesus, from the first petitions about God’s name, kingdom, and will to the first request about ordinary needs: “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). We saw that the Father invites us to bring groceries, bills, health, work, and sleep into prayer without embarrassment, and that this petition trains us to live one day at a time with grateful dependence instead of anxious control. We also remembered that God ordinarily provides through honest labor and shared generosity, and that every loaf is meant to lead our hearts to the greater gift, Christ himself, the Bread of Life given for sinners.

Monday: Empty Hands

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:11

Devotional:

The first word in this petition is simple and searching: “Give.” With that single word, Jesus strips away our illusions of self-sufficiency. He teaches us to speak as children opening empty hands before their Father. This is not the language of entitlement. It is the language of trust. It is the voice of sons and daughters who know that everything they have must first be received.

We are not self-made. We never have been. Every breath is borrowed before it is breathed. Every strength is given before it is exercised. Every ordinary provision, food, shelter, health, opportunity, comes down from the Father’s hand, even when it arrives through very ordinary means. Behind the paycheck, the harvest, the schedule, and the routine stands the quiet generosity of God.

This petition also confronts our pride. It challenges the inner narrative that says, “I built this. I secured this. I deserve this.” It reminds us that we live in the Father’s world, under the Father’s rule, sustained by the Father’s kindness. Whatever diligence we have exercised, whatever skill we have developed, whatever success we have known, all of it rests finally on mercy.

And this prayer steadies the anxious heart. If the Father has already given us his Son, he will not neglect his children in smaller things. He is not careless with those he has redeemed at such cost. We do not pray in order to awaken a reluctant God. We pray because we have been welcomed into fellowship with a generous Father who delights to give good gifts.

To say “Give us” is to confess dependence. It is to renounce both pride and panic. It is to stand each day before God with humility and confidence, saying, “I have nothing that did not come from you, and I trust

you to supply what I need today.”

1. Where are you most tempted to think, “I earned this,” rather than, “The Father gave this”?
2. What ordinary need have you been hesitant to bring to God in prayer, and why?
3. How would your day change if you approached it with empty hands and a child’s confidence?

Prayer:

Father of lights, we confess our pride and our false sense of independence. Thank you that you are not stingy with your children. Teach us to ask plainly and trust you simply. Provide what we truly need today, and give us grateful hearts to receive it. Through Jesus Christ, who opened the way for us to call you Father. Amen.

Tuesday: This Day

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:34

Devotional:

Jesus teaches us to pray for bread “this day.” That little phrase leans gently against our favorite habit: living tomorrow in advance. Anxiety tries to spend tomorrow’s trouble with today’s grace, and it always comes up short.

The Father is not against planning ahead, but he does forbid carrying tomorrow’s dread as though it were wisdom. You are given strength for today, not for trials that have not yet come. Ultimately this draws us back to the day God has actually placed in our hands. It calls us to do the next obedient thing, to ask for what we truly need now, and to leave the rest where it belongs: with our Father.

This is faith. God-with-us is not only a promise for some distant day. It is a promise for this day, with its real duties and real troubles.

1. What “tomorrow” have you been dragging into today, and what has it been doing to your soul?
2. What is the next faithful step in front of you that you keep postponing because you want guarantees first?
3. How can you practice “this day” faithfulness in one concrete choice before the day ends?

Prayer:

Our Father, we confess how easily we borrow trouble and call it prudence. Forgive us for fearing a future you have not yet given. Grant us the grace to live within the boundaries of this day with steady trust. Provide what we need, and teach us to leave tomorrow in your hands. Keep us near to Christ, who teaches us to pray and to rest. Amen.

Wednesday: Enough

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 30:8–9

Devotional:

“Daily bread” is a request for sufficiency, enough to live faithfully and serve God without being devoured by want or intoxicated by abundance.

That is a hard lesson for many of us. Some of us fear poverty and grasp for control. Others of us fear losing comfort and mistake excess for safety. This petition trains us to ask for “enough,” and to trust the Father rather than the size of the pantry.

The Lord’s wisdom here is kindness. He knows how quickly abundance can make us forget him, and how quickly lack can make us despair. So he teaches us to pray for a portion fitted to faithfulness.

Contentment is not pretending we do not have needs. Contentment is learning to rest in a faithful Provider. Whether the cupboard is full or thin, the Father remains the same.

1. Are you more tempted toward anxiety in lack or forgetfulness in plenty?
2. What does “enough” look like for you right now, in practical terms and in heart posture?
3. Where have you been treating money or possessions as your refuge instead of the Father?

Prayer:

Father, you know what we need before we ask, and you know what we do not need even when we crave it. Forgive our discontent and our grasping hearts. Teach us to receive your provision with gratitude and humility. Guard us from both despair and pride, and give us quiet trust in your care. Through Jesus Christ, our faithful Savior. Amen.

Thursday: Bread Through Honest Work

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:23–24

Devotional:

Some people treat prayer as a vending machine, as though the right words should produce instant results. Scripture teaches us better. God ordinarily answers “Give us this day our daily bread” by giving us work.

Work is not a curse in itself. It is a dignified calling, even when it is tiring, repetitive, or unseen. When we labor honestly, we are not merely serving an employer or completing a task. We are serving the Lord who placed us where we are.

This petition joins prayer and labor. We ask the Father to provide, and then we rise to do the work he has assigned, trusting that he gives through means. That makes ordinary tasks holy in the truest sense, offered to God.

And it protects us from worshiping our work. We work heartily, but we do not treat work as our savior. The Father is the Provider, and we are his dependent children, even with calluses on our hands.

1. Do you tend to separate prayer from work, as if one is spiritual and the other is not?
2. Where are you tempted to find your security in your job, skill, or productivity rather than in the Father?
3. What would it look like to do one ordinary task today “as for the Lord” with faith and gratitude?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the dignity of honest labor and the ordinary means by which you provide. Forgive us

for idleness on the one hand and for worshipping work on the other. Help us to work heartily as unto you, trusting you for the outcome. Provide what we need through the paths of obedience you have set before us. Keep us steady in Christ, who is our true security. Amen.

Friday: Give “Us”

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

Devotional:

Jesus teaches us to pray in the plural: “Give us.” That word widens the heart. When the Father supplies our needs, he is also shaping us into the kind of people who notice others. Hands that pray “Give us” must not remain clenched. They are being trained to open, to share, to become part of the answer for someone else’s prayer.

This is grace-shaped generosity. The God who gives is making his children look like him. When we give freely, we bear witness that our security is not in what we hoard but in the Father who provides. Some needs are chronic. Some seasons are tight. But the Father’s resources are limitless. He gives seed to the sower, and he multiplies it for good.

1. Who comes to mind when you pray “Give us,” and who do you tend to forget?
2. Where could you practice generosity this week in a concrete and quiet way?
3. What fear makes you hesitant to share, and how does the Father’s care answer that fear?

Prayer:

Generous Father, you have given us far more than we deserve. Forgive us for living as though we are alone and as though everything depends on us. Teach us to pray with a widened heart and to see the needs of others with compassion. Provide for your people, and make us willing instruments of your care. For Jesus’ sake, who gave himself for us. Amen.

Saturday: Bread That Does Not Perish

Scripture Reading: John 6:35

Devotional:

Jesus refuses to let us stop with the pantry. We truly need ordinary bread, and the Father truly cares about it. But we need more than bread. We need life. We need forgiveness. We need God himself.

That is why Christ says, “I am the bread of life.” A table can be full while a soul starves. A calendar can be crowded while the heart remains empty. The greatest need beneath all our needs is to be reconciled to God, and that reconciliation is only in Christ crucified and risen.

If God is our Father, it is because the Son was forsaken in our place. If we are fed day by day, it is because the hand that feeds us was pierced for sinners. The Father’s provision is a blood-bought mercy secured by Jesus.

So ask boldly for bread, and ask even more boldly for Christ. If you have never truly come to him, come now with empty hands. Receive the Savior who gives himself for the life of the world, and then learn to

pray with joy, "Our Father... give us this day our daily bread."

1. Are you more attentive to the needs of your body than to the needs of your soul, and what has that produced in you?
2. Where have you been content with God's gifts while neglecting God himself?
3. If you are weary or guilty, what would it look like today to come to Christ as the Bread of Life and rest in his finished work?

Prayer:

Father, we thank you for daily mercies that sustain our bodies and steady our lives. Forgive us for treating your gifts as enough while neglecting the Giver. Thank you for Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, given for sinners through his death and vindicated in his resurrection. Draw us again to him with faith, and satisfy us with the grace he purchased. Feed us today with what does not perish. Amen.