

Theology Simply Explained — WSC104 “Living and Praying as God’s Dependents”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 104—especially explaining **how we are to live and pray as those who depend entirely upon God’s free gift to provide for us according to His perfect love, wisdom, and power.**

Q104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition? *In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God’s free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them.*

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Catechism question this week is, What do we pray for in the fourth petition in the answer is And the fourth petition, which is give us this day. Our daily bread. We pray that if god's free gift. We may receive a competent portion of the good things of this light.

And enjoy his blessing with them.

So we notice just in the word give That we are. Dependent upon mercy. We are dependent upon grace. We are as it were. Beggars before god. We have No claim upon him all things are from him. And through him and to him. We owe him our life. We owe him our breath.

We have no ability to provide for ourselves. It's a great foolishness in us. Sometimes that we Think of the things that we have, and the words that The opening chapters of Deuteronomy put on. The israelite slips, when they say.

The. My strength, the power of my hand have given me this wealth. And we act, as if, Either we have obtained things for ourselves or as if who they are owed to us. This teaches us a humility before. God dependence on him.

That it also. Recognizes the same about. Other believers. We should. Ask of god. Not only for ourselves, but for others continues to be. Uh, corporate prayers. Remember The.

The process to the lord's prayer, our father. Speaking. First person, plural. And so this is something to remember in all our asking's. Of god for the things i need. What we should also be asking for our brothers and their sisters. So, Give us this day, our daily bread. This also teaches us so we should.

Be praying to god. Daily. Give us this day. Our daily bread. Well then. What about the next day's daily bread? Are we just going to presume upon god for that day's bread? Of course not. We're going to ask him for it again. And this is the principle by, by which we don't just say daily.

Um, unless you eat bread, just once a day. But that, whenever you Look for or come to enjoy the good things of this life. That you would. Bless God for it that you would ask is blessing in it. Um, Is a good principle for us. Something to Check. How we are interacting with the lord.

Is it the reflex of my heart to pray before i eat? Not just pray before each meal. And of course, that's a good practice. It carries the danger of becoming wrote and mindless. Put that danger is not in the frequency of the preying that danger is in the fickleness of the heart.

And so you don't say, oh well, it might become wrote, so i'll just pray to god less and i won't ask him. Um, as frequently no. The lord jesus teaches us. Which is us. No, the lord. Jesus teaches us. Uh, to ask for our daily bread. And so is it's good to pray before each time that we eat.

But that's not what i was asking. I was asking, is it is the reflex of our heart. Um that the first thing we do every day is pray. There are going to be all sorts of good things that we need. Um, And we might even, We might even pray for health.

Every day. Mightn't. We And here we are. A season in our family's life in which we're reminded just how for granted would take our health on a regular basis. And so, You'll start thinking of all the lord's, good provisions. And then this idea of competent portion, And the answer.

We pray that of god's free gift. We may receive a competent portion. Um, not necessarily the portion that we are asking for. Is not. Give me how much bread i think i need. For today. Um, In my, Traveling, youth choir days. It's one. I don't remember if it was from a concert or a musical, but we had a song called Shopping list.

And it was a Satire on the way our hearts did to pray. And it give me this. I want that blessed me. Lord, i pray. Grant me what i think i need to make it through the day. And that is exactly. What the lord jesus is. Teaching us against here, although Uh, we may be a little too dense to see that he's doing that.

But when we ask for the lord for each day, For that day's amount of bread. We're not saying, give me my communist ration. That is the same every day. And we are not saying, Here i am placing. My order for what? I and my great wisdom. Uh, know that i need today.

We are coming to our god. Who loves us more than we love ourselves? Who is full of wisdom and knows all of the good that he is doing. Not just in all the world generally, but even very specifically in our own life. And he gives us exactly what we need.

The right amount of bread, the right amount of drink. And as we Uh, pointed out recently from matthew. A sufficient to the day is its own trouble. He knows the right amount. Of sanctifying. Um, Resistance. In our life. He gives our souls the resistance training that we need. In our life as well.

And so, this competent portion, That in order to accomplish. The good that god is going to do into us today? There are necessary. The right amounts of all different things. And we come to the god, who knows the good that he's going to do us. We come to the god, who knows how to do the good that he's going to do it.

We come to the god who has All of the resources in heaven and earth and even beyond that. Um, divine resources in himself for us. And we ask him to make the decision. Of how much he gives us. Give us the stair. Our daily bread. That if god's free gift, we may receive a competent portion.

Of the good things of this life and enjoy is blessing with them. So that there is in this. Um, humility. In which? We yields to him. The. Decision, making about what

to give us and how much This confidence in his love. That it comes in. Love that it comes.

As a father answering his children's prayer, prayers are requests. Um, I think it's Psalm 65 that. My praises god and his attributes, one of his attributes being that he is The god who hears prayer and answers prayer. Well, not only is he the god who hears and answers the prayers of his creatures And the covenant god who hears and answers the prayers of his covenant people.

He has made himself known to us especially in the lord jesus christ. As the father got. Who answers? Here's loves to hear and answer the prayers of his children. And so when uh, when we do stop and we pray before the meal, or we pray at the first of the day.

Um we're still even laying in our beds and are realizing for the first time that day that we're awake. And we are. Yielding to him. And his discretion was wisdom. What to give us today? One of the things that we are doing is preparing us to receive everything that comes in love and fatherly.

Love And covenant life in creator love. Now, all of these things that belong to his character and therefore, belonged to the various aspects, Of our relation to him. Uh, so that we don't just receive breakfast receive Breakfast as blessing. And his blessing upon the breakfast, we don't just receive our health.

Whatever health we do have in the day and our strength and our shelter. And our protection. Uh, from Others protection from ourselves. Um, but and everything that we receive, We receive it as blessing from him. And we receive his blessings with it. And therefore, Uh, one of the things that isn't Explicit in the answer and the shorter.

Catechism. That we we come to him with thankfulness. Thankfulness already. For what we are, requesting. Thankfulness already. For how he is going to answer. Even if it is not particularly what we might have had in mind, When we are requesting. There is a thankfulness of heart that goes along with.

The recognition that there is Uh, a graciousness of god towards us. In what we are asking for and what he's going to give us. So, there's so much here and I'm sure there's parts of it that i haven't even remembered to cover. But there's uh there's so much good here for how to interact with god continually in our life.

And the fourth petition. So the catechism question is, what do we pray for? In the fourth petition, and the catechism answer is. In the fourth petition, which is give us this day, our daily bread. We pray that of god's free gift. We may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life.

And enjoy his blessing. With them. Amen.