

The Lord's prayer: Give us each day our daily bread.

I would like to continue what Martin Bazala was talking about in his last sermon. He spoke about his job. As some of you know, I also work in a field of business. I lead a team and I run a company branch in Ostrava. The field of business is a lot about numbers, results, facts. It is very hard to let God into this world sometimes. It is very hard for me to give God control in areas of my job where I am supposed to be in control. I am learning this every single day. I am learning this also through the prayers in everyday situations - before meetings, right before the important decisions I have to make, in difficult moments.

Long time ago I heard a Craig Groeschel sermon (American pastor) and he said this sentence: **“Let prayer be your first response, not your last possibility.”** And I think that this sentence is absolutely crucial. Very often I have been praying only at the moments when it has been really crazy (both personally and in my work life). I was praying when there was no other choice. When there is nothing left but to pray. **But God wants us to do the exact opposite!**

Philippians, 4:6-7

6 Have no cares; but in everything with prayer and praise put your requests before God. 7 And the peace of God, which is deeper than all knowledge, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

God wants us to pray for everything. He wants us to have a prayer **in the first place - as our first reaction.**

It means we should pray **before we start to act.** It means we should pray before family celebrations, before we grab a beer with our good friends, before we have a work call or a zoom meeting. It doesn't mean we need to express complicated prayers - quick simple prayer from our heart is enough (something like “Dear God I pray for this meeting to be good and fruitful.”).

It also means we should pray right in the moment **when we start to feel emotions:** joy (“Thank God!”), fear, worries or anger (“God, please give me your peace.” or just to be honest and say “God, I am so angry/frustrated/...”). You can say whatever that comes to your mind. The important thing is to speak with God.

It also means we should pray **when we receive a message** from somebody who tells us what he/she is going through, what happened to him/her, what he/she expects and so on. We should give this information to God. He can work in the situation better than us alone. God can make miracles. We can't.

It also means we should pray **when we are making a decision.** (God what do you think? Should I accept this job offer? Is this our plan for my life?)

What I really like about this is that praying is a habit. Studies say that we are learning new habits from 21 to 60 days). So if we consciously cultivate the prayer as the first response to situations in our life, it will probably become automatic over time. But it's not really about the habit itself, of course. The habit of prayer is just a tool in a relationship with God). It makes our relationship alive. Thanks to the prayers we can live our everyday life with GOD not ALONE. It is the same need that we feel with our significant others, or best friends. We want to share with them the most important moments of our day. Thanks to the fact that God is

with us constantly, we don't need to wait for him till the end of the day. We can share everything immediately. We can always share everything. And it means we have to pray for everything - for our daily bread.

Let's take a closer look at the sentence: **"Give us each day our daily bread."**

"Bread"

Bread is not only in the Old testament but also today a symbol of safetines. It doesn't mean only food but everything we might need. God wants to secure us. Nothing is too small or insignificant.

"Daily" and "each day"

Let's focus on what is now and today.

Matthew, 6:34: *Then have no care for tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Take the trouble of the day as it comes.*

At the same time, this means that the small things of everyday life are not under God's ability to discern. There is no need to say to ourselves "I won't burden God with that, he certainly has a lot of other more important things to do" - but the opposite is the truth: **Everyday things take center stage here.**

"us" a "our"

The prayer is not only a personal matter but also a community matter. God wants us to pray for other people. He often gives us blessings through the communities not to individualities. On the other hand - It is absolutely fine to pray for ourselves. We individually are parts of the bigger picture.

"Give"

Imperative. This statement is courageous, bold and clear. There is no "help us to get/bake our daily bread" but "give it to us". We can see the total addiction.

And this is how I want to close today's sermon - **For me, total dependence on God means sharing every moment of my life with him.** Not because I have to, but because I want to. I know that God wants to share everything with me. He wants to be with me, hold my hand. He wants me to know that I am loved and accepted - every moment of every day.

AMEN + prayer.