

PRAYER HOME GROUP • Karl Barth, *Prayer*, Ch. 2,  
“Interpreting the Lord’s Prayer in the Tradition of the Reformers” (Our Daily Bread)

MATTHEW 6:9-13

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|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9  | Our Father in heaven,<br>hallowed be your name.                          | 11 | <b>Give us this day our daily bread,</b>                           |
| 10 | Your kingdom come,<br>your will be done,<br>on earth as it is in heaven. | 12 | and forgive us our debts,<br>as we also have forgiven our debtors. |
|    |                                                                          | 13 | And lead us not into temptation,<br>but deliver us from evil.      |

“On [the] first three requests hang the freedom, the joy, the alacrity, and the certitude of the other petitions...”

*Since the last time we met, have you further considered these questions? Is the “tone” of your prayers set by the God-centeredness of these first petitions? Do the shape and order of your prayers/lives follow the shape and order of the Lord’s Prayer?*

“Notice the boldness, I shall even say the temerity, of this appeal. Here is the person who dares to importune God, asking him to concern himself with human affairs; here is the person who dares such imperative language... the audacity of these three petitions.”

*Why would we even think to trouble God with the details of our lives?*

“Praying God to give us our bread both earthly and celestial, both substantial and supersubstantial, presupposes that we know God as the giver... Therefore, our prayer must begin with this implication... ‘Thou desirest not our death, but our life.’”

*What is bread? What is the significance of bread? Why would we ask God for bread? Why would we suppose that God cares that we have bread? What kind of dependence upon God does the request for bread imply? Why should we be mindful of the fact that this is a corporate prayer? What does it mean that Jesus took the significance of bread upon himself by saying he was the Bread of Life? Can you imagine God providing Bread by withholding bread? Read Prov. 30:8-9... How must we be given Bread before we can properly receive bread?*