



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

MY DAILY BREAD

Dear Friends and Partners,

Have you ever imagined how wonderful it would be if God laid out before you His plans or blueprint for your life. That would pretty much eliminate any guesswork and wondering what to do next. You almost wouldn't need to trust Him to direct your path because you would already know which way to go. This however would create an independence which inevitably would strip your faith in the Lord and His word. As ideal as the thought may be to have a glimpse of the road out ahead of you, the Lord still desires that each one of His children stay connected and dependent upon Him, much like a baby who is connected through the umbilical cord to his mother. Without this life support connection, the child would not survive nor enjoy the life that God had in mind for him.

There are a lot of Christians today who are looking for answers and wondering what the next step is in life, in business, in finance even in ministry. Here is something that's worth thinking about: God is not hiding His will *from* us, but rather *for* us. In other words, if He were to let us in on all that He had in mind for us to do and permit us to look ahead a few months or even a few years for a sneak preview, I'm certain that most people would not be able to handle that kind of information. We'd probably short circuit and blow a fuse. Take for example an individual that weighs around 150 pounds. At birth this same individual was only 7 lb. 2oz. What happened? They have experienced growth, expansion and have enlarged their territory one might say. This didn't all take place at once but over time; it was a process. Their delicate fragile body was not ready to handle 150 pounds at birth – it needed to grow and develop until one day as they stepped on the scale they realized they had arrived!

It really comes down to one day at a time.... “*Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread,*” Jesus said. There's nothing in the Lord's Prayer about a two week supply. It's your daily walk with and dependence on God that builds a healthy relationship, not a quick snack once a week on Sunday. A steady growth, consistent development and maturing come as a result spending time with Him.

You may remember the Israelites who wandered through the desert some forty years. God was faithful to them and always saw that they had all their needs met. They never did lack for anything however the Lord still required faith and obedience from their side. He wanted them to

completely trust and rely on Him. As the children of Israel journeyed through the desert having just been delivered from Egyptian bondage, they began to complain and grumble against Moses and Aaron concerning the food supply, until God stepped in.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed. Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning." However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.”

Exodus 16:4,5, 17-21, 35 (NIV)

As you can see, people who have no faith have a tendency to gather in more than they need just in case God doesn't come through for them. As was in this case, some didn't follow God's instruction and as a result, what was meant to bless and sustain them began to rot and smell. Friend if God came through for you once, He'll do it again! Don't yield to the temptations of doubt and unbelief. God is the One who said He would supply all of your need according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 4:19**) If God made the promise, then He is also big enough to keep His word!

What's concerning the manna, God set the food supply up in such a fashion that it would require obedience and an unwavering trust in Him. For forty years, day after day, the Israelites experienced the faithfulness of God in their lives. They knew that He was El Shaddai. They eventually developed an unwavering faith in the provision of God. But keep in mind, it happened one day at a time. They had to obey the Lord today in order to make it to tomorrow.

You might be reading this letter right now and you've been asking yourself what next? Which way do I turn? Maybe you feel like you're between a rock and a hard place. On one side is the doctor's report; the unpaid bills; the unanswered questions, the pain and discomfort or discouragement and despair. On the other side is Jesus, His word, His love, His unwavering promises that almost seem too good to be true, but they are. And you know if you're well grounded in the word of God, which direction you should be looking in, yet the temptation to look the other way is so real. Friend, stay steady. Consistency and steadfastness are keys that unlock a lifelong flow of God's blessings in your life. Don't misunderstand me now, faith is the one ingredient that pleases God. (**Hebrews 11:6**) I learned a long time ago that when you're in faith, bible faith that is, then you are consistent and steadfast in what you believe, how you live and the way you talk. There is no room for compromise not if you truly want God's best.

Back to what Jesus said, it's the **DAILY** bread that we all need. It's the **DAILY** bread that counts! We need to listen to the voice of God **daily**; we need to read the word of God **daily**.

Jesus said that, *“That man shall not live by bread alone (i.e. natural foods), but by every word of God.”* (Luke 4:4) His word is what will direct you as well as sustain you in times of trouble.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:105 (AMP)

“Your words are what sustain me. They bring me great joy and are my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.”

Jeremiah 15:16 (NLT)

Now going back to something we've touched on earlier, when you're in faith and your dependence is on Him; then to obey Him is not an option or alternative; it is the only choice. Because once you realize that your relationship with Christ is not something you achieve or a title that you wear but rather the union of two becoming one, then His voice matters to you. **(Romans 7:4; 12:5)**

Declare out loud, **“Lord, give me today my daily bread. Show me what I need to see. Speak to me what I need to hear. Your voice matters to me!”**

Let's look at another aspect of today's teaching: in order to move forward and receive tomorrow's provision, then I must lay hold of today's manna to sustain me until then. It's a progression. Each step is connected or linked to the next one. Let me give you an example. Do you remember Saul's encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus? Pay close attention to the instruction which he received.

“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.”

Acts 9:1-9 (NIV)

The Lord said to Saul to, **“Go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”** This was Saul's daily bread – a simple word from the Lord. Now all that he needed to do was obey it and more would be given. You will have to obey the first instruction before you can receive the next one. As you're reading this today, ask yourself, “Is there anything that the Lord has instructed me to do? Am I doing it?” If the answer is not yes, then you are basically stuck. You won't be moving forward or going anywhere until you first obey the last instruction. Tomorrow's provision (daily bread) will be there for you but you must first receive today's (daily bread) in order to sustain you until then. Do you remember what happened to the men

who gathered in more manna than they were supposed to? In other words they stepped over into tomorrow prematurely. ***“Some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell.” (Exodus 16)*** Not very nice is it? They wanted tomorrow’s provision today. What does this translate into: fear, disobedience, impatient as well as **no** faith. Isn’t this just like some people? They don’t want to spend the time to go out and get what they need today. They are wanting a week’s supply all in one trip. This sounds like some Christians who a full weeks dosage of God’s word all within a one hour Sunday morning service. That way they don’t feel the “need” to pray or read their bible throughout the week. I hope you’re beginning to realize the importance of the **DAILY** bread – a fresh word from the Lord each day. He wants to breathe life back into your body, into your marriage, into your business and finance today! And what sustains you today won’t necessarily be there tomorrow – you’ll need to go out and lay hold of fresh manna that He has in store for you. By no means am I implying that God’s word becomes stale from one day to the next. But what can become stale and all dried up is an individual’s faith. The moment they stop using it, the moment they no longer “need” God and yield to that “independent spirit” that I referred to earlier on, then begins their downhill slide or the most common word used that we’re familiar with is backslidden. No one backslides though overnight – it’s a slow process with devastating consequences.

I want to encourage you today to:

- Expect God to speak to you every day.
- Expect fresh revelation and insight into his word daily
- Expect provision from the Lord with each waking moment
- Expect answers to the questions you’ve been asking
- Expect God’s Spirit to quicken your body as He did Jesus’

And one more note, as I mentioned earlier on, God is not hiding His will **from** us, but rather **for** us. The enemy is not all knowing. He has limited resources. He has no idea what all the Lord has in mind for you personally. You can be sure that if you did, he could go before you and try and thwart the plan of God for your life. To him it’s all a mystery. But to you, it is continually unfolding.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”- but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”

I Corinthians 2:9,10 (NIV)

Therefore my friend, believe God today for your **DAILY** bread. He knows just where you are, what you’re going through, what you need and how to supply for you. The Heavenly Father always takes care of His own.

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd + Eva

