

The Parchment

*Volume 1, Issue 10
Rev. Howard Chang
November 8, 2009*

One Day at a Time

As a child I had all kinds of questions. The biggest questions related to the future such as *When would I die and where would I go? What would I be when I grew up?* Those questions shrouded life in mystery. As an adult I still have times when I wish I knew what tomorrow would bring. Naturally this desire intensifies as I'm waiting for a problem to be resolved or I'm waiting in expectation for something such as an acceptance letter or lab result. For whatever reason no one knows the future and we're cynical of anyone who might say they can divine it.

Our human condition makes it necessary for us to live one day at a time. Jesus said to not worry about tomorrow, for each day has enough trouble of its own (Matt. 6:34). Worrying is always about tomorrow, so He calls us to live faithfully in each today. When we live day by day we also learn to depend on God. In the Lord's prayer Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, "Give us today our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11). Have you noticed that he repeats the idea of "today" with the word "daily?" Each day we need to pray, and each day we can receive what we need from God.

One of my favorite songs is called *The Steadfast Love of the Lord* (Lam. 3:22-23): "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. . ." Those laments after the fall of Jerusalem spoke of the great deprivation and devastation of their sacred city. Yet, even in the midst of suffering, they looked to God's mercy. That's what Israel did earlier in their history when they wandered in the desert after the Exodus. They learned from the daily manna that God would provide what they needed to survive day by day. God reminded them every time they picked up the manna that it came from him. We need those reminders of God's daily provision every day too, especially as we are walking through the dark valleys and dry deserts of our days.

To pray for daily bread is to recognize that God meets all our needs each day. Let's bring them before our sovereign and loving God as we live one day at a time.