

“How To Pray & Actually Get an Answer”

Parables: Wisdom to Live By, Part 2

March 1st & 4th, 2018

Sooner or later everyone **PRAYS**

Have you ever not had your prayers answered and wondered **WHY**?

The Passage & The Parable – Luke 11:1-13

Luke 11:1-4 (NIV) “One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’² He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come.’³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’” (also see Matthew 6:9-13)

Luke 11:5-10 (NIV) “⁵Then Jesus said to them, Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him the bread because of friendship, yet because of his shameless audacity he will get up and give him as much as he needs. ⁹So I say to you: ‘Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.’”

The man didn’t receive the bread because of **FRIENDSHIP** but because he kept **BUGGING** him

Point: When it comes to prayer you need to be **PERSISTENT**

Luke 11:11-13 (NIV) “¹¹Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (also see Luke 18:1-8)

Luke 18:8 (NIV) “I tell you, he [the unjust judge] will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

Life Principles: Four Things to Remember If We Want Our Prayers to Actually Be Answered

1. Prayer is primarily an **ACTION not an **ATTITUDE****

Luke 11:2 “When you pray, say...” - you actually **TALK** to God

This is **NOT** talking about being spiritually aware, spiritually in tune, thinking about God,...

Colossians 3:17 (NIV) “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

We are spiritual **AMBASSADORS** for Christ; people will **JUDGE** Christ by what I say or do

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NAS) “Pray without ceasing.”

While we should always be in an “**ATTITUDE**” of prayer, but when we want something done, we must get away and **TALK** with God

Luke 5:16 (NIV) “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

You can pray in your **MIND** which is different than being “spiritually aware”

Genesis 24:42-45 (NIV) “⁴²When I came to the spring today, I said, ‘Lord, God of my master Abraham, if You will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. ⁴³See, I am standing beside this spring. If a young woman comes out to draw water and I say to her, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your jar,’ ⁴⁴ and if she says to me, ‘Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too,’ let her be the one the Lord has chosen for my master’s son.’

⁴⁵ “Before I finished praying in my heart,...

While you don't have to talk using **VERBAL** words, you must **TALK** to God

2. The Lord's Prayer is a **MODEL** to **FOLLOW**, not a **MAGICAL** prayer to **RECITE**

The Lord's prayer is a template of what to pray for: God's **AGENDA** & our **NEEDS**

When you establish a relationship with Christ, you receive **ETERNAL** forgiveness (going to heaven); but you also need to confess your daily sins for you – not God – to have **INTERNAL** peace

3. God responds to our **RELATIONSHIP** with Him not **TECHNIQUE**

God is the **CREATOR** of everyone (all made in the image of God), but He's not the heavenly **FATHER** of everyone

John 1:11-12 (NLT) "11He [Jesus] came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. 12 But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God."

Romans 8:15-16 (NIV) "15The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (also see Galatians 4:6)

We have an **OPEN** relationship and **ACCESS** with God our Father

We often make prayer **HARD** – it's just a child **TALKING** to his parent

Two questions to ask: 1. Have I **JOINED** God's family? 2. Am I living in **OBEDIENCE** to what I know?

Proverbs 28:9 (NIV) "[God says] If anyone turns a deaf ear to My instruction, even their prayers are detestable."

James 5:16 (NIV) "...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

4. Not **YET** doesn't mean **NO**

It is easy to pray in a **CRISIS**; it's hard to keep praying after a **LONG TIME**

Few prayers are answered **IMMEDIATELY**

Colossians 4:2 & 12 (NIV) "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful... Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."

Spiritual warfare is **REAL**

Daniel 10:12-14 (NIV) "12Then the angel said, 'Daniel, don't be afraid. God has heard your prayers ever since the first day you decided to humble yourself in order to gain understanding. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13The angel prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief angels, came to help me, because I had been left there alone in Persia. 14 I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the future. This is a vision about the future.'

When Jesus comes back, will He find us **FAITHFUL** and **PERSISTENT**

Luke 18:8 (NIV) "...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

My Next Step Today Is:

- Today I am making a decision to join God's family for the very first time, I am following Christ
- There is a prayer request God hasn't answered yet; I will be persistent in continuing to pray for this
- I will pray each day this week for God's direction regarding our plan to complete our campus

Next week: Join us as we explore a parable about, "You Don't Need More Faith." Invite a friend!

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The man didn’t receive the bread because of _____ but because he kept _____ him

Point: When it comes to prayer you need to be _____

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