



Midweek Study

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Strategies for Prevailing Prayer



HAVING A MORE EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE

Luke 11:5-13

When Jesus Prayed

1. Dependent prayer to know God's Will (Luke 6:12)
2. Dependent prayer for daily work (Mark 1:35)
3. Dependent prayer in a crisis (Garden of Gethsemane)

Evidence of Jesus' Dependence Upon the Father

1. The Son can do nothing of Himself (Jn. 5:17, 19; 8:18).
2. I can of Mine own self do nothing (Jn. 5:30).
3. I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father (Jn. 5:30; 6:38).
4. My doctrine is not Mine, but His that sent Me (Jn. 7:16; 8:26, 38).
5. I do nothing of Myself (Jn. 8:28).
6. I do always those things that please Him (Jn. 8:29).
7. I came from God, neither came I of Myself (Jn. 8:42; 16:28).
8. I seek not Mine own glory (Jn. 8:50, 54).
9. I have not spoken of Myself, but the Father gave Me commandment what to speak (Jn. 10:25, 37-38; 14:10-11).

When you learn to be as dependent on God as Jesus was, you will pray the way Jesus prayed.

Luke 11:5-13 (NKJV)

⁵And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? ⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he* asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

1. You must feel a desperate need when you pray. Luke 11:5-7

- God wants us to come to him as totally desperate, knowing we really have nothing.
- The greatest obstacle in prayer is our own self-sufficiency and pride.
- You do not have the answer – only God has the answer.

<u>Without God</u>	<u>With God</u>
In yourself, you are nothing (Galatians 6:3)	You are the righteousness of God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)
In yourself, you know nothing (1 Corinthians 8:2)	You have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
In yourself, you have nothing (1 Corinthians 4:7)	You can have needs and wants met (Phil. 4:19; Psalm 23:1)
In yourself, you can do nothing (John 15:5)	You can do all things through Christ (Phil. 4:13)

2. You must learn to persist in prayer. Luke 11:8

- "Importunity" does not mean persistency, but "shameless stubbornness".
- You do not have to twist the arm of God, but there is a great reason in God waiting.
- God wants us to wait on Him. He also wants to test our faith and our motives.

3. You must believe in the willingness of the Father to answer prayer. Luke 11:11-13

- 3 Types of Praying:
 - Ask – specific request
 - Seek – knowing God's will
 - Knock – God working in the lives of others.
- STONE - God will never give you anything that's worthless.
- SERPENT – God will never try to deceive you when He answers prayer.
- SCORPION – God will never give you anything that will hurt you.

***"Pray as though everything depended on God alone; but act as though it depended on you alone."
– St. Ignatius of Loyola***