

3. Prayer a Powerful Weapon

There is power in prayer. Make no mistake about it. Prayer is one of the most secret weapons that we have in the body of Christ today. Jesus was all about prayer. He taught us how to pray in Luke 11. Luke 11 also teaches us to be persistent and relentless in our prayers to a God who answers.



Instructions on Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Observations

So what *is* prayer? Prayer is a relationship, wherein we humbly communicate, worship, and sincerely seek God's face, knowing that He hears us, loves us and will respond, though not always in a manner we may expect or desire. Prayer can encompass confession, praise, adoration, supplication, intercession and more.

Relentless, steadfast honest raw prayer. There are simply some things that we cannot be quiet about when we go into the presence of God. We must learn to live by prayer—to be a tenacious, persistent, and stubborn believer who prays without ceasing. May God make you a champion of prayer—a prayer-warrior—who never surrenders until victory is won. There is nothing more effectual than the faith-filled prayer of a believer. What mountains are in your way? What is the thing that seems impossible, that can only be done if God answers?

Keep Asking, Keep Seeking, Keep Praying. The awesome thing about God, is that he desires to bless his children, not with “things” but with spiritual blessings. He's waiting for us to talk to him, Can you imagine ...the king of kings wants to hear our voices? YES he does and he wants to answer. He wants us to be in communion with him. He wants us to share our hearts, our tears and our struggles with him. Yes, of course he knows, but he wants to hear it from us. What do you need to tell your heavenly father?

* **A p p l i c a t i o n** *for abundant living:*

Developing a consistent prayer life:

1. Ask God to help you make time for regular prayer. God gives wisdom to those who ask (James 1:5), and He will help you as you ask Him. Jesus knew what it was like to have many things to do and a lot of demands on Him, yet He found time to pray (Mark 6:30-46). He knows our challenges and will help us as we come before Him (Hebrews 4:14-16).
2. Put it in your schedule. Write (or type) it into your schedule or planner. Actually do this! If you treat prayer like an important meeting or appointment then you'll be much more likely to keep it. You won't keep it perfectly all the time, but you will pray much more if it's in your calendar. And here you can make technology your friend—if you use a calendar on your computer or phone, set a reminder and alert that it is time to pray.
3. Stick with it. Like going to the gym, the “muscles” of prayer don't develop overnight. Every new habit takes time to develop, so be disciplined and “don't despise the day of small beginnings” (Zech. 4:10). If it would help you to stay more consistent in prayer, why not ask a peer or more mature believer to keep you accountable to your schedule? They may have other ideas to help you grow in prayer.

F u r t h e r S t u d y *for a deeper understanding:*

“You win a Victory, when you begin a battle on your knees. Because of who you are in Christ Jesus, you face the battle with a stance of victory from the beginning”

Deuteronomy 28:7 “The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven!

Verse for Memory: “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.(Luke 11:13)

Q u e s t i o n s *for reflection or group discussion:*

1. What does your personal prayer life look like?
2. What are some ways that you can strengthen your walk with God, through prayer and devotion?
3. Are there any distractions in your life that are keeping you from growing deeper in the Lord ?

Final Thought:
What is God
teaching you?

