

Luke

See Jesus

How Persistent Should We Be in Prayer?

Luke 11:5-13

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 6, 2022

The Lord's prayer gives us the basic content of our prayers. It teaches us what to pray, but the next passage in Luke 11 shows us how you should say it when you pray.

What you pray and how you pray both matter!

I. You'll Have to Embrace Your Status as a Child of God

Luke 11:2 "And He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father...'"

Jesus is saying you're in the family of God now and He's your Father...because that changes how you approach Him.

Jesus tells us to say "Father" so that we don't make the mistake of thinking He's so great, distant, and so busy ruling and reigning over the universe that He's unavailable to us or uninterested in what we have to say.

Our God is the very essence of all that a good, perfect, and loving Father could ever be.

Every time you pray, you're coming as a child of God who's already been chosen, adopted, and brought into the family, with all the privileges and characteristics of a child.

Come to God on the basis that you're His beloved son or daughter! When you come on any other basis and under any other status, you'll be anxious about saying it just right, guarded and formal in how you approach Him, hesitant and slow, and will think you've gone to Him too often.

Hebrews 4:14-16 "Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 7:25 "Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

II. You'll Have to Adjust Your Prayers to Reflect Who You Are

What would it look like to pray as a child?

Luke 11:8 "I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs."

That word "impudence" is the Greek word "anaideia" and it's always negative. It refers to outrageous and offensive behavior. The word conveys a presumptuous and audacious attitude, even to the point of being rude.

Jesus in this parable says, “I want you to be offensively bold because that’s what children do.”

Children don’t wonder if it’s a good time or if you’re in a good mood and they don’t certainly don’t wait because someone else is there. They just start asking and keep on asking without ever thinking they shouldn’t ask again.

Luke 11:9-10 “And I tell 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

This invitation goes out to everyone who is a child of God!

The verb tense shows us that Jesus is actually saying, “*Keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking.*”

“Hundreds of prayers I’ve prayed in the early morning were answered by breakfast time.”

“I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land, on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be. 18 months elapsed before the first of the five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others. 5 years elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second, and prayed on for the other three. Day by day, I continued to pray for them, and 6 years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three, and went on praying for the other two. These two remained unconverted.”

36 years later, he wrote that these two were still not saved. That means he’s prayed every day for 30 more years. And then he said:

“But I hope in God, I pray on, and I look for the answer.”

~ George Mueller

III. You’ll Have to Know that His Answer Will Always Be What You Need

Despite the invitation to ask, seek, and knock shamelessly and audaciously, He’s still the Father and we’re still the children.

This parable is not some secret formula for forcing God to do whatever we want because we prayed so offensively and boldly. The Father always keeps the right to do what is best for His children, even when they don’t understand.

Luke 11:13 “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!”

What He’s saying is if you knew what you really needed most, you’d ask for the Holy Spirit. He’s not talking about them getting the Holy Spirit, but is talking about the Holy Spirit getting more of them and doing in them more of what He promised to do.