

Prayer – Tapping into God’s Power
Caution: That Will Kill Your Prayer Life
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / January 25, 2026

I. God repeatedly calls you to change, grow and mature as a Christian.

The Bible has much to say about us growing strong in our walks with the Lord.

2 Peter 3:18 “But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Ephesians 6:10 “Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His might.”

Ephesians 4:11-14 “And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up** the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood**, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴**so that we may no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”

II. You’re meant to outgrow childishness, not childlikeness.

Mark 10:14-16 “But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.’ ¹⁶And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.”

Matthew 18:3-4 “...Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Four Childlike Ways To Pray

1. Come to God MESSY, just as you are.

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

God doesn’t tell us to come to Him after we get our act together. He wants us to come precisely because we’re a complete mess. That’s when we need Him most!

Luke 5:31-32 “And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

2. Come to God REPEATEDLY, as often as you want.

Matthew 7:11 “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

“Let’s do a quick analysis on how little children ask. What do they ask for? Everything & anything. If they hear about Disneyland, they want to go there tomorrow. How often do little children ask? Repeatedly. Over and over again. They wear us out. Sometimes we give in just to shut them up. How do little children ask? Without guile. They just say what is on their minds. They have no awareness of what is appropriate or inappropriate.”

Luke 18:7-8 “And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?”

In this parable, the persistent widow presents her request to the judge over and over again. She’s an example to us of praying with importunity.

importunate: (*adj*) persistent, especially to the point of annoyance or irritation

“The really vital question is not whether God will respond to prayer, but whether there will be faithful people who have persisted in prayer and not lost hope when the Son of Man comes. The parable is essentially an encouragement to continue in prayer without losing heart right through the difficult times of waiting before the Son of Man comes.”

Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 1008). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

3. Come to God CONFIDENTLY, knowing He’s for us, and He has means!

Romans 8:31-32 “What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us**, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, **how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?**”

Psalms 56:9 “Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. **This I know, that God is for me.**”

Young children don’t think through surrounding circumstances when asking their parents for things. Oftentimes, two things drive them to ask: they know their parents are for them, and they know their parents have the means to grant their request

4. Come to God with EVERYTHING—great and small—simply because we know He hears.

Psalms 65:2 “O You who hear prayer, to You shall all flesh come.”

Psalms 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous **and His ears toward their cry.**”

Proverbs 15:29 “The Lord is far from the wicked, **but He hears the prayer of the righteous.**”

Psalms 66:19-20 “But truly **God has listened**; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰Blessed be God, because **He has not rejected my prayer** or removed His steadfast love from me!”

1 John 5:14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will **He hears us**. ¹⁵**And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask**, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Where do you tend to hesitate most in prayer—because you’re trying to “get it right,” or because you feel like you need to clean yourself up first?
2. What usually causes you to stop praying for something before you’ve seen an answer?
3. When you think about asking God for something important, what doubts or questions surface first?
4. Are there certain things you tend not to pray about because they feel too small, too big, too hard, too repetitive, or undeserved? What do those boundaries say about how childlike—or cautious—your prayer life has become?
5. What is one specific request—big or small—that you sense God inviting you to bring to Him more consistently? What would it look like this week to pray about that with childlike honesty and persistence?