

HOW TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED. Lk 11:5-13

INTRODUCTION: Story of the man who said, "Chaplain, I want to learn to pray, but how can I pray so that I'll get my prayers answered?"

I. BY LISTENING QUIETLY TO JESUS

A. Lk 10:39, "Mary settled down at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said."

B. Review the story of Mary and Martha

C. The need for quiet listening to the words of Jesus.

D. We get into trouble when we are talking when we should be listening.

E. How we listen to Jesus

1. Begin by reading some scripture portion

2. Ask the Lord to speak to you through it.

3. Ask how this applies to your life & situation

4. Consider whether the Lord is trying to speak to you in some other way or through some other persons or circumstances in your life.

F. What happens when we listen to Jesus?

1. We learn his will

2. We are challenged to follow him more closely.

3. We learn how we should pray

4. We build a relationship that blends our will with his.

II. BY FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE

A. 11:1-2, "Lord, teach us to pray..."

"when you pray, say..."

B. The disciples felt a need to learn how to pray.

C. Jesus is the Master Teacher

1. His LIFE is an example of prayer.

2. His intercessory prayer in John 17 is a great example of prayer.

3. Here He gave us the Model Prayer.

4. Jesus teaches us the conditions for getting our prayers answered:

(over)

The conditions for getting your prayers answered are:

1. A right relationship of repentance and faith.
2. An earnest and spiritual desire.
(This is the point of the parable in Lk 11:5-10)
3. A confidence in God which leads the petitioner to ask in simple trust.
4. A faith which believes that God is both able and willing to answer.

Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

I Jn 5:14-15, "And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him."

5. A reception of the anticipated answer by faith, as we appropriate or lay hold of that which we have not yet received.

Mark 11:24, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will."

6. A determination to keep on asking, (^{pres.} ^{imperative}) keep on seeking, keep on knocking.

"Importune" = "to press or urge with frequent and persistent requests which may appear to be burdensome or troublesome." - Persistence in Prayer

over: { 7. Listen quietly to Jesus
8. Follow His example

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C. If an earthly father delights to give good gifts to his children, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? *2k. 11/13*

1. Notice - he does not say "give good gifts" (As in Mt. 7:11) but "give the Holy Spirit."

2. When he gives the H.S. he is giving the best of all good gifts.

3. When we pray we should not ask for an assortment of good gifts & things, but we should ask for the fullness of the H.S.

4. When He gives the H.S. He gives Himself.

5. This is an extension of the principle set forth in Mt. 6:33.

a. Seek first not things but the kingdom of God, and THINGS will be added to you.

b. Seek first not good gifts, but the Good Lord Himself, and the gifts will be added to you.

of all Thy gifts and infinite consolings,
I ask but this: in every troubled hour
To hear Thy voice through all the tumults stealing,
And rest, serene beneath its tranquil power."

(over)

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Model

- D. What this Prayer teaches us:
1. The basic relationship: Father/child
 2. The reverent attitude: Hallowed be thy name
 3. The ultimate concern: The Kingdom of God
 4. The permissible petition: daily bread
 5. The noblest petition: The two-sided cross.
Forgiveness
 6. The plea for deliverance: from temptation
- E. All prayer should always be based on this pattern, if not always in these same words.

III. PERSISTENCE in prayer - (CBE Persistent)

- A. Importunity = persistence (vs 8)
- B. Persistence counts for more than friendship
- C. Don't be ashamed to persist in prayer:
- NEB: "the very shamelessness of the request will make him get up and give him all he needs."
- D. Persisting in ASKING: and it will be given you
- E. Persisting in SEEKING: ...and you will find.
- F. Persisting in KNOCKING:
- ...and it will be opened to you.

IV. Exercise FAITH - Mark 11:24 11-13

- A. The story behind the passage
1. Son asks father for a fish;
the father gives him a snake.
2. Son asks father for an egg;
the father gives him a scorpion
- Only a mind twisted with cruelty could do such a thing as a horrible joke.
- B. If an earthly father delights to give good gifts to his children, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the H.S. to those who ask him?

C. Pray in the name of Jesus, Jn. 14:13
(concerns the way we live)

D. Pray for the glory of God, Jn. 14:13