

Earnest Prayer

Joseph Carty / General

The Power of Prayer / Prayer; Lord's Prayer / Luke 11:1–13

Why does it seem like some people pray like they are completely controlled by Jesus and living in his power? How can I learn to pray with power? How can I "come boldly to the throne of grace."

- Jesus disciples amazed
 - by his prayer life.
- Seek solitude

Mark 1:35 ESV

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

- early morning.
- Or night

Matthew 14:23 ESV

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself

to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

- Kept on praying...

Luke 6:12 ESV

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

- all night long.
- Ministry was taxing.
 - Prayer was Power

Luke 5:15-16 ESV

But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

- Alone with God
 - was power.
- Jesus was praying
 - out loud.
 - (lesson here).

Luke 11:1 ESV

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

- Disciples wanted
 - same prayer experience.
- Jesus gives model prayer.
- What is so interesting...
 - Jesus words:

Matthew 6:7 NKJV

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

- “No vain repetitions..”
 - What do people do???
 - Repeat this vainly???
- NOT designed,
 - quoted verbatim.

- Jesus prayed all night
 - didn't say same thing...
- Teaching them,
 - power of simple
 - earnest prayer.
- Parable follows...

Luke 11:5-8 ESV

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? 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.

- Symbols
 - Neighbor with Bread
 - = God
 - Bread
 - = Word and Power
 - Person seeking bread

- = Us
- Multiple Lessons...
- Most important point...
 - WHY DOES HE ASK FOR BREAD?

Asking to give to others!!!

- **Key Concept**
 - Petitioners Motivation
 - selfish gain?
 - to serve?
- God will never say no
 - to person seeking power
 - to serve others!

- Role of Jesus
 - Serve other
- Role of Disciples
 - Serve others
- Role of Christians
 - Serve others
- If doing this...
 - it take a lot
 - energy
 - time
 - effort
 - love
- Jesus
 - nearly worn out
 - by ministry.

- Our job
 - impart word of life
- How?
 - Receive to give!
- Said Differently

You Can't Give What You Don't Have!!!

- Christians Job Share
 - grace
 - love
 - Spirit
 - Word
- The Catch...
- Must have
 - grace
 - love

- Spirit
- Word
- Filled with Living Water

Gas Station

Constantly Refilling...

Luke 11:6 ESV

for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;

- In the parable.
 - He had nothing to give!!!
- Some here
 - worn out
 - tired
 - burdened
- You want to share

- but have nothing
- Already given
 - family
 - work
 - house
 - friends
 - shopping
 - cleaning
 - hobbies
- Tired...
- What Can You Do?

Luke 11:5 ESV

And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves,

- God to your friend...
 - Who?

- Jesus...

- His supply
 - always full
 - never tired
 - has what you need!

- But go,
 - for the right reason
 - not just for you.

- Don't only say,
 - I'm tired
 - give me energy
 - for work
 - family
 - shopping

- No!

- Give me energy
 - for your work!!!!
 - To Serve!!!
- Next verse interesting

Luke 11:8 ESV

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.

- Couple of Points...
- First,
 - How much
 - bread does he get?

The New King James Version Chapter 11
as many as he [needs

- God does not
 - give you
 - in advance

- of your needs.
- Gives as need arises...
- Some say
 - “I don’t know how...
 - preach
 - teach
 - witness
 - answer questions...
- You learn
 - as you need...
 - Not much before.
- Once you need
 - in order to give.
- You’ll be given

- **As Much As You Need!!!**

- Second Point

- Selfish Neighbor
 - Too late
 - Tired
 - In bed
 - Disturb family
 - Door locked.

- Is God like that???

 - NOOO

- Not comparison
 - but contrast.

- God always has
 - time
 - energy

- listening ear
- power
- Even at midnight..!
- You can't burden Him.
- The Bible says:

Luke 11:9-10 ESV

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. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

- You will get
 - what you need.
- Conditional Promises
- What Conditions
- Keep reading for full meaning:

Luke 11:11-13 ESV

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him 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!”

- Promise:
 - = You Get What You Ask
 - (big promise)

Conditions?

- Context...

1. Asking to Give...

- No selfish Motive

2. What Father Wants To Give?

- Gift of Holy Spirit
- No genuine seeker

- will leave God
 - empty handed
 - Given Spirit.
- Possible Conditions Met
 - Still No Answer...
- Now What???

Luke 11:7-8 ESV

and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? 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.

- God longs to give
 - but....
- Often realizes
 - delay is good for us!
- Jesus never said,
 - ask once...

Ask αἰτεῖτε

The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks. — COL 145.3

- Pray help us
 - realize our need.
- If we pray little.
 - We are self-sufficient.
- The greater the need
 - the more earnest prayer.
- Earnest Prayers
 - = deeper connection.
- Begging at Midnight...

- Someone who is
 - desperate
 - and knows it...

- Problems will Come
 - Needs will arise
 - Home
 - Work
 - Financially
 - Health
 - Socially
 - ect.

- Don't look to
 - people
 - self

- Look to God
 - God like

- desperate prayers.

- He Says...

Ah They Finally Surrendered

Conclusion

1. God loves simple, earnest prayers.
2. We pray earnestly as we sense our need.
3. God allows us to be repetitive in order to help us.
4. God gives most to those who are ready to give again.

Appeal

1. Find someone to share bread with.
2. You will be given as the need arises.
3. Realize your desperate need.
4. Cry out to God.

