

#9 – The Friend at Midnight: On Prayer

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**August 1, 2021**

*As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray. Martin Luther*

*Luke 11:1-13*

***1*** *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.”****2****And he said to them, “When you pray, say:*

*“Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.****3****Give us each day our daily bread,****4****and forgive us our sins,
    for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation.”*

***5****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,****6****for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;*

***7****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’?****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.*

***9****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.****10****For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

***11****What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;****12****or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?****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!”*

1 – How do we pray?

2 – Why do we pray?

3 – What’s the answer to our prayers?

**1 – How do we pray?**

**Approach**

**Acknowledge**

**Admit**

**Ask**

**-Approach**

**Acknowledge**

**Admit**

**Ask**

**Approach**

**Acknowledge**

**Admit**

**-Ask**

**-Approach**

**Acknowledge**

**Admit**

**Ask**

**2 – Why do we pray?**

***God treats us oppositely from the way the sleeping man treats his neighbor***

***It is God’s delight to always give you what your heart longs for most deeply***

*God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knows. Tim Keller*

*Romans 8:26-28*

***26****Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.****27****And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.****28****And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

***The main point IS NOT the changes we pray for but the relationship.***

**3 – What’s the answer to our prayers?**

*… how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*