

Seven Life Changing Disciplines
#4 Pray Earnestly – Luke 11:1-13 (10/18/09 AM)

1. The Parable of the Persistent Friend (5-8)
A midnight call

- **Hospitality was a _____**
In the East hospitality to strangers is a social duty. They connected their duty to God with their duty to strangers. That principle is seen in the New Testament, Hebrews 13:1-2.

- **His request created a _____**
The typical home had one room often occupied by several generations of family members.

Jesus Is _____ Prayer

2. The Point of the Parable (8)
Most have one primary lesson

- **His request was granted not because of friendship but because of _____**

The key is to understand the word “persistence”. The KJV translates it as “importunity” which is a better rendering but an outdated word. The word means, shameless, brash, or bold. It is a picture of unrelenting persistence.

This Parable Is Teaching by _____

3. The Picture of the Parable (9)
Pray like the persistent friend

- **Jesus commends _____ prayer**
This is so important that later Jesus will emphasize this again with a different parable. Luke 18:1, “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” This is the parable of a widow who keeps coming before an unjust judge. Finally the judge gives in to her request. Luke 18:5, “...because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.”

The tenses of the three verbs Jesus uses illustrate this. They are present imperative. It means “keep asking...keep seeking...keep knocking”. They are progressive in their intensity. First we ask then we seek which means to strive after, to demand and then we bang away on heaven’s door.

Hebrews 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” The word “boldly” means freedom in speaking or outspoken. It has the idea of being frank and open or blunt. God invites us to come before him and to speak freely.

We Are Invited to Pray with _____ Persistent Boldness

4. The Promise of the Parable (9-10)
So astounding He repeats it

- **The promise of _____ prayer**
God promises to answer our prayers, John 15:7 & 1 John 5:14-15. The full teaching of scripture on prayer reveals that this isn’t a divine credit card to fill our every whim and desire.

- **The problem of _____ prayers**
The first reason for unanswered pray is prayerlessness.

(1) We _____ that it really works

- (2) We simply don't have the _____ to
- (3) We don't see the _____ to
- (4) We haven't _____ to
- (5) We lack the _____

Part of the answer lies in the fact of what prayer does. Prayer is more than a means to an end it is also an end in itself. James 5:16, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." The ESV translates it "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." Prayer does more than just generate an answer. It moves us to God's agenda. The fact is every prayer is answered. Sometimes God says yes, sometimes no, and sometimes not now.

God Has a _____ in Every Answered and Unanswered Prayer

5. The Principle of the Parable (11-13)

God is not an annoyed neighbor, He is a loving father

In case we need further convincing Jesus spells it out for us (13).

Our Heavenly Father delights in giving to His children. A parallel teaching in Matthew 7:11 reads, "good things".

Psalm 84:11, "No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly."

We don't pray with persistent boldness because God needs convincing.

If God does not need this then we must.

- **Prayer is more than communication with God it is _____ with God**

God isn't the one that needs convincing, we are. We only become effective in prayer by praying. Through prayer we acknowledge God's greatness and our dependence. That's why prayer is an indispensable spiritual discipline. The scripture commands us to pray always about all things:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "... without ceasing..."

Philippians 4:6-7, "...but in everything by prayer and supplication..."

Colossians 4:2, "Continue earnestly in prayer..."

Prayer Is Not a Matter of Us Prevailing Upon God but of God Prevailing _____