

Bold Enough To Pray
Luke 11:1-13

It's not hard to slip into the thinking that says, if you pray about it long enough, God will eventually give in and grant you the answer that you seek. That may even be a common sentiment among Christians but is it Biblical? Is that what we see in the Lord's Prayer? Is there anything in the Bible or in the Lord's Prayer that somehow teaches or implies that if you bother God long enough, He will give in and answer your prayers just to get you to stop bothering Him?

We finish our series on the Lord's Prayer today. My primary goal has been to help you to pray with more confidence. Not because you know the right words or have the secret passcode. You can be more confident in your praying simply because you understand how much God wants to hear from you.

It's important to notice that the request is "teach us TO pray" and not teach us HOW to pray.

They were responding to what they saw in Jesus. They saw the priority that Jesus gave to prayer. They saw the effectiveness of Jesus' prayers. They saw the frequency of Jesus in prayer. They wanted to be like Him.

Tough question to consider:

*What are the chances that someone might ask you to teach them how to pray
based on what they see in you or what they hear from you?*

What follows the Lord's Prayer in the Gospel of Luke is a parable and a teaching statement.

The parable is sometimes misunderstood to mean that we need to be persistent in prayer in order to get things from God. Be careful here: Read the parable again – Luke 11:5-8 and notice that there is no mention of repetition or bothering the homeowner.

No one in the parable is pictured as knocking and knocking and knocking.
So why does a man answer the door at midnight?

Because someone made the effort to ask.

Notice it says, "because of the man's boldness" in verse 8. That refers to having the courage to ask. This doesn't mean asking a lot or asking with the right words or asking in a way that is annoying. It's just being bold enough to ask.

God is ready, willing and able to help you. You can never inconvenience Him. You simply need to be bold enough to ask. How bold do you have to be? How much courage do you have to have to ask God to work on your behalf? Just enough to ask. The point of the parable is simply, ask God for what you need.

Even when it's at a late hour

Or it feels awkward to ask

And it's not a spiritual issue

It's not life or death.

Even when you think you don't have a shot.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)