

Teach Us to Pray

Luke 11:1-13

“We don’t pray because God needs help running the universe. We don’t pray to change God’s mind. We pray because God has ordained means to accomplish his ends. He has arranged things so that he will give more grace to those who petition him for it. God doesn’t need prayer, but he uses prayer just like he uses other means. He uses rain to grow the crops, sun to warm the earth, and food to strengthen the body. In the same way, God uses prayer to do his sovereign work. In prayer, we are not instructing God as much as we are instructing ourselves.” — Kevin Deyoung, *The Lord’s Prayer*, p. 22

MAIN IDEA:

We can pray with persistence and confidence because we have a good Heavenly Father who hears us and loves us.

I. The Priority of Prayer (1-2a)

“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:”

II. The Pattern for Prayer (2b-4)

A. Its Principal Figure

“Father...”

B. Its Purpose

“...hallowed be your name.”

C. Its Priority

“Your kingdom come.”

D. Its Provision

“Give us each day our daily bread...”

E. Its Pardon

“...and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.”

F. Its Protection

“And lead us not into temptation.”

III. Our Persistence in Prayer (5-10)

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.

“Prayer is not a way of getting God to do what we want, or of persuading him to do something that he does not want to do. But prayer is an audaciously bold request for God to do what he has promised to do. So when we ask God to hallow his name, to establish his kingdom, to give us bread, to forgive our sins, and to save us from temptation, we may do it with shameless persistence.” — Philip Ryken

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.

IV. God’s Promise in Prayer (11-13)

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!”

A. The Holy Spirit Provides God’s Presence

B. The Holy Spirit Provides Wisdom

C. The Holy Spirit Provides Assurance

Application

- 1. Pray**
- 2. Persist in Prayer**

3. Trust God's Promises