

BOLD, PERSISTENT PRAYING

January 29, 2023 Luke 11:1-13 by Bob Branch

BIG IDEA: Jesus encourages bold, persistent praying—telling us that God is responsive and invites us near.

Luke 11:1 Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² Jesus said, “This is how you should pray, say: “Father, May your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. ³ Give us each day the food we need, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation.”

⁵ Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ⁶ ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ ⁷ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ ⁸ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your **shameless persistence**.

⁹ “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” NLT

1 God’s Son had a _____ and brought his disciples into it. (Mk. 1:35)

2 Pray _____. (Mt. 6:9-13)

Say it. Pray the themes. Return to it throughout the day.

Pray it slowly. Pause. **Breathe** it in. **Bathe** in it. **Inhale** God’s presence. **Exhale** everything else.

3 Be _____. (Luke 18)

Persistent ASKING

Persistent SEEKING

Persistent KNOCKING

4 God is _____ to your asking, seeking, knocking. (Mt. 6:8; 7:7-8)

5 Ask for what God _____ you. (Mt. 7:11)

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything *according to his will*, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” **1 John 5:14-15**

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” **Psalms 37:4** ESV

JUST DO IT!

- **Memorize and connect with God by praying the Lord’s Prayer at least once a day** (2023 challenge)
- **Ask God what he wants you to be praying for.** Pay attention to the Spirit’s promptings. Write it down.
- **Take some time each day to pray these things.**
- **Be bold and specific as you pray about these things.**