

The Gospel of Luke

Principles for Prayer

Luke 11:5-13

1. Pray with Boldness: The Midnight Visitor (vs.5-8)

God is not a sleeping neighbor who is bothered by our requests and He does not need to be badgered into acting upon the good requests of His people.

A. **Be Merciful to the Wicked on Account of the Righteous** (Gen 18:22-33)
Abraham requested for God to spare the wicked cities if only a small number of righteous people lived there (vs.23-26). After God granted this request, Abraham boldly requested increasing leniency five additional times (vs.27-33).

B. **Show Me Your Glory** (Ex 33:18-23; cf. Num 12:8)
God had visited Moses in a burning bush (Ex 3:2) and spoke with him as men talk to one another (Ex 33:11), but Moses asks to see the face of God (v.20).

2. Pray with Confidence: Asking, Seeking, and Knocking (vs.9-10)

A. **Prayer Without Confidence? An Example** (Acts 12:1-19)
Fervent prayer can be done without believing that God will do what we ask (Acts 12:2ff); He is able to give what we ask and more (Eph 3:20).

B. **Ask God for What You Need and Want** (James 4:2-3; Ps 37:4-5)
The reason why we do not have what we need is because we do not ask for it or because we ask for good things with wrong motives.

C. **Receive Anything Asked According to God's Will** (1 John 5:14)
Christians have absolute confidence that if we ask anything that is in accordance with God's will (cf. Rom 8:29) that it will be given to us.

3. Pray With Assurance: A Father Gives Good Gifts (vs.11-13)

A. **God Gives Good Gifts** (2 Kings 20:1-3, 6; 2 Chron 1:7-12)
God's answer to the requests of kings Solomon and Hezekiah help us to see God's desire to give good things to His children.

B. **God Gives the Best Gift** (Luke 4:13; cf. 1 Cor 12:4-11; James 1:17))
Jesus promises that we will not only receive what we ask for, but that we will receive God Himself who is the giver of all good gifts.

4. How to Deal with Prayers Not Answered as We Desire (2 Cor 12:7-10)

We may not always understand why good things that we ask for are withheld from us, but we can rest upon the goodness of God (Ps 119:68) in His bringing about what is best for us (cf. Rom 8:29).