

Lesson 6

PRAY UNTIL GOD ANSWERS

1. Jesus taught this parable about prayer in **Luke 11:5-13**. One night a man was asleep in his house and about midnight a friend came and knocked on his door. The man got up and let his friend come inside. Then he thought, "What am I going to do now? I don't have any food for my friend."
2. He left his friend in the house and quickly went to a neighbor's house for help (Luke 11.5~6).
3. He called out to his neighbor, "Friend, let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine who is on a trip has just come to my house, and I haven't got any food for him!" **Luke 11:5-6**.
4. His neighbor answered, " Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything" **Luke 11:7**.
5. **Luke 11:8**. The man thought about his friend who was waiting at his house. He knew that he was hungry and waiting for food. He could not go back without getting some bread, so he kept on knocking on the door, He called out again and again .He decided to be persistent, "I'll just keep asking until I get some bread."
Finally the neighbor got tired of the noise, so he got up and gave the bread to the man. Jesus told this story to his disciples to show them: Don't get tired of praying. We must continue asking just like the man in the story did. We must pray until God answers our prayers. Don't just pray one or two times and then give up. No, we must pray until God answers our prayer.
6. **Luke 11:9**. Jesus said, "Ask, and you will receive; seek and you will find." God likes to hear and answer our prayers, but sometimes the answers do not come quickly. God wants to make our faith even stronger and so sometimes he keeps us waiting to test our faith and make it stronger. Or it may be that Satan is trying to block the answer. Satan likes to get in the way and hinder God's work in our lives, so we must continue to pray until we know that God has answered our prayer. **Colossians 4:2** says, "Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. "
7. **Luke 11:10**. Jesus said, " For those who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks." God has promised to answer our prayers.
8. **Luke 11:11-12**. Jesus said, "Would any of you who are fathers give your son a snake when he asks for a fish? "If a child asked his father for bread, he wouldn't give him a stone. God is our loving heavenly Father and he wants to hear about our needs. He desires to give us what we ask for; he is not going to give us something that will harm us.
9. The most important thing that God wants to give us is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to make us clean and holy with a heart full of love. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to obey, and he can also teach us how to pray. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and he can teach us to pray the kind of prayer that God likes to hear. "In the same way, the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray: the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will" **Romans 8:26-27**.
Remember: If God doesn't answer prayer quickly, don't stop praying. Pray until you know that God has answered your prayer.
God is our heavenly Father and he wants to give only good things to us. There are times when children cry for things that are not good for them, and their father and mother don't give them what they want. In the same way we sometimes pray for something that we think is really good. But God who is all wise and all loving knows that it would not be good for us, and so God refuses to give us what we asked for. Sometimes we may pray with selfish motives. This is not pleasing to God, and God will not answer selfish prayers (**James 4:3**).

