



**Prayer Wk. 4**  
**"Praying the Right Way"**  
**By Pastor Jody May 01/30/2022**

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**Luke 11:5-13 ESV**

<sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup>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?' <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>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!"

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**Introduction:** (Glass half-full vs. Glass half-empty mentality)

Since the beginning of the year, we have been on the topic of prayer I guess you could say to answer a challenge from Pastor Bill's New Year sermon. He challenged us at the beginning of the year with developing and operating out of a heart of **gratitude**. A Gospel influenced, Christ centered **GRATITUDE** is an **ATTITUDE** of **praise, thankfulness, and rejoicing** based on who the Lord is and what He is doing in one's life. Every Christian, it does not matter what your circumstances are, it does not matter what happened to you in 2021, can develop and live out of gratitude if you will but commit to the necessary and commanded Christian practice of prayer.

Prayer is the path to develop a better understanding of the Gospel. Prayer is the road in which we establish God's Kingdom on Earth. Prayer is the way in which we set up events by which we see God's hand participating in the history of redemption. Prayer is the road we travel to develop a sense of gratitude for when one understands the gospel better, when one sees the Kingdom come and His will done, when one witnesses what God's power can only do - **your heart MUST develop gratitude in response and if not ... you're dead!**



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Starting in week one we talked about praying for the Right Things from:

**2 Thessalonians 1:11 ESV**

<sup>11</sup>To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you **worthy** of his calling and may **fulfill** every resolve for good and every work of faith by his **power**,

Praying for the **Right Things** are praying for one another's:  
**Worthiness**, according to the call to Salvation.  
**Fulfillment**, to have all you need to accomplish God's will.  
**Power**, the ability to do what God has called you to do.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week** – we took a small detour and taught **on God's design for sexuality and marriage** aligning with our brothers in Canada as they battled their government in the passing of the bill C-4 which described God's teachings on sexuality as hate speech. We concluded that sermon though, with a reminder on how we effect change in our world.

**1 Peter 3:7 ESV**

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

Those families that model we said the Ephesians 5 lifestyle of wives graciously submitting and husbands unconditionally loving wives that your prayers are now unencumbered. If you have prayed for the **right things** your marriage **WILL** reflect that, and now your children are blessed, your church is blessed, and God's Kingdom continues to grow.

**3<sup>rd</sup> week** we went back to Thessalonians and taught on praying for the **Right Reasons.**

**2 Thessalonians 1:12 ESV**

<sup>12</sup>so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be **glorified** in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.



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We walked away with learning that the singular goal of prayer for our lives is that **Jesus** would be **glorified** in **us**. So, we plead w/God, according to 2 Thes. 1:5-10 to help us **endure** our **suffering**, to keep a **Future Focus** and to plead for **Continual Grace**. This brings us to our last discussion of prayer to get us into that attitude of gratitude and that is Praying the **Right Way**.

Now, some of you may think to yourself, I know where he's going. But in case you think I am preaching on the Lord's Prayer Mat. 6:9-13 & Luke 11:1-4, let me explain why I am not. Because that is something we have taught on here at least twice over the last 4 years and while it doesn't hurt to review, I am going to put that pressure on you.

Looking for instruction on how to pray, as [Luke 11:1-4](#)? Check out John MacArthur's sermon on the Lord's Prayer, [How Should We Pray](#)<sup>1</sup> for a great explanation on using that model. As well check out Mike Clark's past sermon on [How to Pray](#)<sup>2</sup> preaching through that model from last year. Also, my recommendation for a book to read on the Topic of prayer is Tim Keller's book [Prayer/Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God](#).<sup>3</sup>

What I want to do today now is move ahead expecting for you to know the method and we are going to look at how to use it (**think of 'spring ball'**).

There is a parable that Jesus taught right after He introduced the Lord's Prayer in Luke 11:1-4. In this parable He teaches how you use the method. He shows what you are supposed to do with the model He has shown you. Prayer is a Christian discipline best practiced to develop its' effectiveness, so let's jump in our main text this morning and put it to work.

### **Luke 11:5-13 ESV**

<sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup>and he will

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *How Should We Pray*, Ligonier Conference, Orland FL. April 9, 2015. Web. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnz5kcGdzdc>

<sup>2</sup> Mike Clark, *How to Pray*, Highlands Community Church, Dallas, Ga. Dec. 27, 2020. Web. [https://youtu.be/uA\\_wuOWwiwc](https://youtu.be/uA_wuOWwiwc)

<sup>3</sup> Timothy Keller, *Prayer / Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. Penguin Group Publishing, New York, 2014.



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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'? <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>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!"

**Main Point:**

**Kingdom *SEEKING* prayers are always rewarded  
with exactly what you need.**

**1. You'll never know if you never ask – be shameless.**

When Jesus tells us this story He starts off with this phrase, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves.'" If you don't take the time to do your work of deciphering what this means it doesn't make sense. Because I almost bet that if any of you were to get a knock on your door at midnight and if your neighbor were to ask for some bread you would most likely be calling the cops. As of matter of fact I can tell you if you knock on my door at 12, I would be showing up armed. Jesus teaches us this story in such a way that demonstrates this is a normal occurrence.

You see back in the middle east a lot of people, depending on the seasons, traveled at night, after their full day's work, and to avoid heat of day. There were no phones and no motels, therefore you could have a friend/family visit from yonder without expectation or invite and you would be obligated to put them up, AND it was expected for you to take care of them. So, at night, you may or may not have prepared your bread for the morning, so being a good host, you have a guest show up, and you want to provide so off to the neighbor's house you go.



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Upon arriving at the neighbors, you knock, you wait, and you are answered with another weird phrase, "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" Back in those days most of the population did not have multiple bedrooms so everyone slept together, for space considerations, safety, and warmth. At this point, if I put myself in the story as the "knocker" then I would be giving up - I am thinking this is way too much hassle for some bread! My neighbor is going to call the cops, I am going to have to try and make this up, he's going to pay me back and wake me up whenever he wants, and I am going to have to live with this guy and were not going to get a long for a while, etc.

As the "knocker" my sense of despair and annoyance grows, I begin to believe it is too much to ask for help from this guy, which leads me to giving up. **BUT JESUS**, in this parable tells us that thing in our head that says give up because it is too much of a hassle, it's too much of a pain in the butt, is **exactly when we need to push through!**

<sup>8</sup> 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.

Because of his "**anaideia**" (ἀναίδεια)<sup>4</sup> means shamelessness, that means not getting or not concerned of the perception of the coming and asking. It's kind of like my kids pestering me for a new \_\_\_\_\_ they either don't care or have no idea how annoying they are, but they won't give up.

Jesus is here sharing the good news with us that God, the Father, when you pray is like that good neighbor that even though He should not have to put up with you **He answers the door because of your persistence, your shamelessness**. The Father, you see, does this not because you're such a great neighbor, NO, it is because Jesus, it's in His name you're asking. That is His great deeds, He bore the shame of our sin on the CROSS so we can ask God with impudence, that is **SHAMELESSNESS**.

### **James 4:2 ESV**

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<sup>4</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



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<sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not **ask**.

**AND NOW**, for you, the wonderful thing about this experience is instead of letting the bleakness of your situation keep you from wanting to ask, to bother God, **it is the bleakness of the situation that increases your joy when your prayer is answered.** God enjoys rescuing His children in their need because the **greater the need the greater the joy** His people have when He **rescues them!** **That is what increases FAITH - answered prayers**, and the more prayers that are answered the more you will go to Him. The Gospel is always increasing the Glory of God in front of you, by increasing the glorification of Jesus in your life, and it all prompted by your need for Him.

Are you willing to take a risk and challenge your wrong perception of God not caring? Do you want to develop that sense of Gratitude that will sustain you in 2022? Then we have got to be willing to be **SHAMELESS, because you never know/have unless you ask.**

**2. The Best is yet to come when we're ready to be bested - be unrelenting.**

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Jesus is assuring us, that those that truly go to God looking for answers are going to get them. Notice the terminology though, it doesn't sound like you get everything you ever asked for but that in the quest of shamelessly approaching God you begin to see and understand what it is God wants to give you. We often times go to God for the physical tangible elements of our lives, but God wants to give us so much more. In His great wisdom though He will use our **worldly desires** to bring you to Him, **SEEKING Him.**

When I coached there is a tool that I would go to in my wheelhouse for coaching. Kids will ask all the time, can I do .... And we always tell them **NO** upfront for two reasons, **1<sup>st</sup>** I do not want to waste my time and the team's time to work with a kid to do a job when they don't really want it, **2<sup>nd</sup>** it is in the act of persistent asking though that I get to perceive if they really want it.



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It is much like the story of **Jacob in Genesis 32**. Jacob cries to God for protection as he returns home through the path that leads to his estranged brother Esau. Jacob then does something that we all should do, he recites God's promises back to God.

**Genesis 32:12 ESV**

**But you said**, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude'.

Jacob has spent years in rebellion, after deceiving his father and brother, dwelling with a people he should not have been around, and now he asks for protection from his heavenly dad. So, dad puts Jacob through a test so that Jacob can **see for himself** if he is ready to receive God's blessing.

That night Jacob communes with God, whether it's a dream, a vision, or reality, but he wrestles with God, he won't let him go, and by the time morning comes he is injured but still clings to, "**BUT YOU SAID!**" and God's like, "What's your name kid?" Jacob tells him, and then God replies, "**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.**" **Gen. 32:28** You left me and went looking for your fortune, and you came back with what you thought you accumulated for yourself, and you want my protection to keep it. **BUT NOW in SEEKING ME**, you have discovered I never left you, and all you have I gave to you, to keep my promise to you to make you the father of my people, to bring Jesus into this world. Through my Providence you acquired, through my grace you have been saved, and by my promise to your Grandfather Abraham, you will gain so much more!

This is how life plays out for us to as we are taught by the author of Hebrews as he writes to the early Church:

**Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV**

<sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with **confidence** draw near to the throne of **grace**, that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace** to help in **time of need**.

Let us seek with boldness our God, that even when we think we can't approach him, that He has told us "No" so many times, let me encourage us all



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here to keep wrestling with Him. Because when it is over you will be blessed to discover all the ways He has been with you to bring you into eternal life with Him. **God's answers are always worth the struggle, but are you prepared to be "BESTED" by Him! Will you be relentless?** If so, here's what you will discover on the other side of that struggle:

**3. You may not get what you want but God graciously gives what you need - be grateful.**

<sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>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!**"

So again, some weird terminology. Some better theologians than me, here made better sense of this, a serpent can mask what a fish can look like and scorpions in that region are many times white and curled up under rocks looking like eggs. The allusion here is that that Father, when you ask for a specific thing, will not give you something that will hurt you but it most likely will not be the thing you're asking for. Even we as fallen creatures will give a good thing to our kids, how much more will God give to you? It will be infinitely more valuable than what you and I could ever ask for!

**Then why pray!?** Because of the thing that you are going to get that is SO much better, the **HOLY SPIRIT**, God's presence in your life!

**Illustration:** It is like the corporate buy-out when it so needs to happen. The desperate business owner comes to a friend when he has been turned down by the bank more than once. He asks the friend for the favor, calling on the love of that friend that relative. That friend out of love says I am going to buy you out of this debt **BUT I am going to take control**, I will become your boss, you will always have what you need, I am going to give you that paycheck, that insurance, that balanced life so you can go home at 5, but it means I will be a constant in your life...

God wants to give to all of us that which we push against, what we don't want, His presence directing our lives, taking the pressure off of us, graciously ruling where we have messed up. **MacArthur summed it up well I think:**





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... It doesn't say you ask for the Holy Spirit necessarily. It says, "(The Father) gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." When you go to ask God for whatever you ask God for, whatever it is, God gives you the Holy Spirit. Let me show you what I mean. You ask for comfort, He gave you the Comforter, right? You ask for help, He gave you the Helper. You ask for truth, He gave you the Truth teacher. You ask for power, He gave you the Spirit of power. You ask for wisdom, He gave you the Spirit of wisdom. You ask for guidance, He gave you the Guide. You ask for love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control and He gave you the Spirit whose fruit was released in your life.

You see, this is the generosity of God. You ask for the gift, He gives the giver. **You ask for the effect, He gives the cause.** You ask for the product, He gives the source. Is that generosity? He gives you according to His riches, not out of His riches. You ask God, as it were, going to the bank, you ask for some money, He gives you the bank. That's the point. I'll just give you the Holy Spirit, then you've got it all because out of the Holy Spirit comes power. - MacArthur<sup>5</sup>

**Kingdom SEEKING prayers are always rewarded  
with exactly what you need.**

The best answer God can give you is not necessarily what you want but it is always **what you need, it's Him!** God is constantly, by unconditional love and selfless sacrifice, is gaining control of our lives, saving us from gloom of trying to do it all by our power. Today will you be so bold and pray in such a way as to admit to God, what you want but you may not be sure it is what you need? Will you put Him into the director's seat and let Him have control?

Family, this morning let me encourage you, put down discretion and run to Him **shamelessly**. Knock on heaven's door, **be relentless**, he has promised to answer your prayers. Then when you discover that you have been blessed by not what you want but by what you need, be **grateful!** Know and rejoice that the answers you seek will always be a better gift than what you could have hoped for, because the HS is about to bring you the full measure of His

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-158/gods-generous-response-to-boldness-in-prayer>



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goodness which is HIMSELF. May 2022 be a year of Gratitude for HCC as we push into this year by the power of Prayer.

**PRAY**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that is always ready to open the door to your petitions.

Go in the name of the Son that wrestled with the world and absorbed God's Wrath, so we could seek Him and always find Him.

Go in the name and the power of the HS that comes to us as the full measure of God's goodness providing exactly what we need.