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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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OCTOBER 19, 2025  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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In a recent sermon, Pastor Gary delivered a compelling message centered around Luke 11:9, highlighting the transformative potential hidden within the seemingly simple verse, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Pastor Gary explained that this profound statement from Jesus invites believers to embark on a deeper journey of faith, encouraging a personal and intensive relationship with God. He urged the congregation to examine their prayer lives, emphasizing that while asking is an integral part of prayer, it should not overshadow the equally vital components of worship, thanksgiving, confession, and repentance. By examining what we ask for, and how persistently we do so, believers can gain insights into their spiritual maturity and alignment with God's will.

Pastor Gary further examined the concepts of seeking and knocking, urging listeners to recognize that spiritual discoveries often require diligence and intentional effort. Drawing on metaphors and personal anecdotes, he portrayed the act of seeking as a disciplined pursuit of what is not immediately visible or obvious, requiring faith and persistence. Knocking, on the other hand, symbolizes the action needed to access a deeper intimacy with God. Pastor Gary shared that many people communicate with God through a metaphorical door, missing out on the full richness of a direct encounter. To truly experience profound spiritual growth, believers must metaphorically knock, enter, and engage with God on a more personal level.

The sermon concluded with a call for the congregation to aspire to a barrier-less relationship with God, where intimacy, vulnerability, and openness thrive. Pastor Gary shared that crossing this threshold leads to a profound transformation where believers can access God's wisdom and strength for life's challenges, whether it be grief, illness, or daily struggles. He encouraged everyone to regularly knock on this door of deeper spiritual experience, highlighting the immeasurable blessings and insights available on the other side. This intimate connection, he explained, enriches personal faith and equips individuals to bring healing and hope to a broken world.

## Chapters

### Chapter 1: The Three-Part Process of Prayer

Introduction to the profound nature of asking, seeking, and knocking in prayer.

### Chapter 2: Breaking Through Barriers in Prayer

Addressing the barriers we face in prayer and how to overcome them.

### Chapter 3: Entering the Holy of Holies

The significance of entering into God's presence and the transformative power it holds.

### Chapter 4: The Practical Application of Profound Prayer

Practical ways to implement a more profound prayer life and its impact on daily living.

## II. STUDY GUIDE

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### Key Points:

- The importance of asking God for personal needs and desires
- Seeking as a process of discovering deeper truths about God and oneself
- Knocking as a metaphor for pursuing intimate access to God's presence
- The need to remove barriers in our communication with God
- The transformative power of entering God's presence with humility and openness
- The importance of making time for deep, meaningful prayer despite busy schedules
- The connection between intimate prayer and spiritual gifts, anointing, and effectiveness in ministry

### Key Scripture

**Luke 11:9** "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

**John 15:5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

**Jeremiah 29:11-13** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**Psalms 24:3-4 (paraphrased)** Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

**Isaiah 53:5 (paraphrased)** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

### Other Relevant Scripture

**Psalm 5:3 (alluded to)** - "Early in the morning will I seek you"

**Exodus 34:29-35 (alluded to)** - Moses' face glowing after speaking with God

**Matthew 6:33 (alluded to)** - "Seek first the kingdom of God..."

**James 4:3 (alluded to)** - Not receiving what you ask for due to wrong motives

**Matthew 26:26-28 (alluded to)** - Last Supper, bread and wine symbolism

**Hebrews 4:16** - "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence..."

**James 4:8** - "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

**Revelation 3:20** - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."

**Psalm 46:10** - "Be still, and know that I am God"

**1 Corinthians 14:1** - "Pursue love, and earnestly desire spiritual gifts..."

**Matthew 7:7-8** - Like Luke 11:9, "Ask, and it will be given to you..."

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## Day 1: Knocking on The Door

Question: Pastor Gary mentions 'knocking' as a metaphor for seeking deeper access to God. What practical steps can we take to 'knock' in our spiritual lives?

Reading: Luke 11:9-13

Devotional: Jesus invites us to a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. Just as the sermon emphasized "knocking" as a metaphor for seeking closer communion with God, today's passage encourages us to ask, seek, and knock. Reflect on the areas of your life where you may be conversing with God "through a door" rather than in His presence.

What fears or hesitations keep you from fully entering intimacy with Christ? Today, make a conscious effort to "knock" - to approach God with reverence, expectation, and vulnerability. Ask Him to open new doors of understanding and closeness in your relationship.

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## Day 2: Entering the Holy of Holies

Question: How does the concept of entering the 'holy of holies' through prayer challenge our typical approaches to communicating with God?

Reading: Hebrews 10:19-22

Devotional: Pastor Gary spoke of entering a place of deep intimacy with God, likening it to the priest entering the Holy of Holies. Today's passage reminds us that through Christ, we all have access to God's presence.

Consider the "veil" that was torn when Jesus died, what veils in your own life need to be removed to experience God more fully? Reflect on what it means to approach God with a "true heart in full assurance of faith." How can you cultivate this attitude in your daily walk? Take time to "enter in" to God's presence today, leaving behind distractions and focusing solely on Him.

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## Day 3: Seeking with All Your Heart

Question: In what areas of your life do you need to 'seek first the kingdom of God,' and how might that change your priorities and decisions?

Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13

Devotional: Pastor Gary emphasized the importance of diligently seeking God. Today's passage promises that when we seek God with all our heart, we will find Him. Reflect on your current spiritual practices.

Are you seeking God with your whole heart, or are you holding back in some areas? Consider what it might look like to seek God more earnestly in your daily life. What habits or attitudes might need to change? Ask God to reveal Himself to you in new ways as you commit to seeking Him more intentionally.

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#### Day 4: The Transformative Power of God's Presence

Question: In what ways might we be unconsciously placing barriers between ourselves and God, and how can we work to remove them?

Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

Devotional: Pastor Gary mentioned how Moses' face shone after being in God's presence. Today's passage describes this event in detail. Reflect on times when you've felt noticeably changed after spending time with God.

How did others perceive this change in you? Consider the areas of your life that need transformation. How might spending more time in God's presence affect these areas? Ask God to make His presence so real to you that it transforms you from the inside out, making you a reflection of His glory to others.

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#### Day 5: Resting in God's Presence

Question: How can the practice of 'knocking' and entering deeper communion with God transform our ability to minister to others and share the gospel?

Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Devotional: The sermon touched on the idea of entering a place of rest and refuge with God. Today's passage is Jesus' invitation to find rest in Him. Reflect on the burdens you're carrying stress, worry, sin, or responsibilities.

How might these look different if you truly rested them in Christ? Consider what it means to take on Jesus' yoke and learn from Him. How can you practice this "easy yoke and light burden" in your daily life? Today, consciously hand over your burdens to Jesus and ask Him to teach you how to rest in His presence, even amidst life's challenges.

# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## Small Group Guide: "Profound Access to Christ"

### Opening Prayer

### Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus invites us to ask, seek, and knock to gain deeper access to Him.
2. There's a profound difference between talking to God "through a door" and entering His presence.
3. Knocking represents our willingness to pursue intimacy with Christ beyond casual or ritualistic interactions.
4. True intimacy with Christ requires vulnerability, honesty, and a willingness to be changed.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Gary mentions feeling like he's "talking to God through a door" sometimes. Have you ever felt this way in your prayer life? Describe that experience.
2. How do you understand the difference between asking, seeking, and knocking in your relationship with God?
3. Pastor Gary suggests that "knocking" involves a willingness to enter God's presence without bringing in our "mud." What might this look like practically in your life?
4. Reflect on a time when you felt you truly entered God's presence. How was that different from your regular prayer or devotional time?
5. Pastor Gary mentions that lack of time is often a barrier to this kind of intimate prayer. How do you prioritize (or struggle to prioritize) deep prayer time in your life?
6. What do you think it means to "eagerly desire spiritual gifts" in the context of intimate prayer with God?
7. How does the idea of "at Your word, Lord" challenge or encourage you in your faith journey?

**Practical Applications:**

1. This week, try physically knocking before you begin your prayer time, as a symbol of your desire to enter God's presence more fully.
2. Reflect on what "mud" you might be bringing into your time with God. Spend time in confession and asking for cleansing before prayer.
3. Set aside a specific time (even if brief) each day this week dedicated solely to seeking intimacy with God, free from distractions.
4. Journal about what you're truly seeking from God right now. Are you asking for surface-level things, or seeking deeper spiritual growth and gifts?
5. Practice saying "at Your word, Lord" in response to promptings or challenges you face this week.

**Closing Prayer:**



# V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Thanks for everyone who joined us last Sunday after service for the congregational meeting! We also want to thank all the men who we to the Super Awesome Sleepover Adventure Camp for their participation and commitment to growing in their relationships with the Lord!

Time is running out to donate to Angel Tree. Donations will be accepted throughout the end of the month!

The youth head to Whisper Mountain November 14-16. Anyone who wants to go on that, be sure to get registered soon.

Pastor Joels Critical Conversations Class will begin again on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We apologize for the break in classes, but Pastor Joel is eager to continue with part 2 of that 4-part class.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> is the return of daylight savings time. Make sure to change those clocks and set those (multiple) alarms!