

The Lord's Prayer: Knocking at Midnight

Luke 11:1-13

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.” And He said to them, “When you pray, say...”

Father, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is
indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation.

Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.

Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.

And from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me. The door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.'

I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, 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?”

Jesus' Prayer Pattern

Jesus gives this pattern of prayer

- Introduction (*Father*)
- 1st Petition (*hallowed by your name*)
- 2nd Petition (*Your kingdom come*)
- 3rd Petition (*Give us each day our daily bread*)
- 4th Petition (*And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us*)
- 5th Petition (*And do not bring us into temptation*)

Praying with Persistence

Luke 11:8

“I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s **persistence (or shameless audacity)**, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.”

Praying with Perspective

Luke 11:13

“If you then, though you are evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”



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Table Talk

- 1. What has been your experience with prayer?**
- 2. What do you think of Jesus' prayer pattern (the Lords Prayer)?**
- 3. When has your prayer life been full and life-giving? When in your life has it been dry and empty?**