

GROWING - Empowered to Pray

Give Us This Day

We've been tracking with the Lord's prayer and re-learning how to pray according to how Jesus instructed his disciples. We're moving from maintenance, "God help me get through today," type prayers to "Let your Kingdom come on earth," prayers.

God invites us to pray boldly and persistently for our needs.

Luke 11:1 - 13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:

" 'Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.' "

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, '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.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

"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. For everyone who asks receives; the one

who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 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!”

The New International Version. (2011). (Lk 11:1–13). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



The Lord doesn't want us to pray timidly, cowardly, or with fear, but with audacity, with boldness, and with persistence.

Parents absolutely understand what that's like, when the child repeatedly asks for things over and over again.

If you put yourself of this situation, and you listen to a friend asking you for something, you would typically expect a friend to acquiesce to your request? But in this parable, why do we read the lines, "don't bother me?"

This question deserves a long walk and a cup of tea.

And as we think about it, one thought to ponder on is, "do I say that about my own needs?"

"Am I bothering someone?"

"Are my friends too busy for me?"

"Is God too busy for me?"

And if so, then underlying these thoughts could be a sneaky lie that "after all, maybe I'm not that valuable."

But is God's power too limited to deal with your circumstances? Is the God who spun the universe into existence too overwhelmed to pay attention to you?

The Psalmist once asked, "Who is man that you think of us?" And he comes to a different conclusion than we often do:

Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The New International Version. (2011). (Ps 8:1–9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

God isn't tired of us. He made us rulers and esteemed us, and if he sees us this way, then he isn't tired of listening to you.

And so when he asks us to pray for what we need, he says do so with boldness. Seek. Ask. Knock. Don't give up.

What provision do you need right now? What are you most bothered and concerned by right now? What do you need Jesus to provide? Jesus invites you to ask and keep on asking.

Looking Back to Build Faith

In 2016, we set out to raise our whole annual church budget to build a safe home for women and children in Nepal.

When we had exhausted all of our resources, we entered what was called "the God room," where it was all about prayer and ask God to provide. We had plateaued at raising only half of the total amount.

Then we as a church family dedicated to praying Ephesians 3:20 every day. And the next week, phone calls came in and over the next two month, without having to make another phone call, God moved in the hearts of churches, organizations, and individuals to give 5 figure donations to raise above and beyond what we needed to build that home.

God then said because we gave a building away, he would give a building to us. And today, 93 of us are sitting in this new Building on 17th Ave.

But it wasn't easy for the building in Nepal, nor was it easy for the building in Seattle.

God gave us the building, but walking out his calling in faith required us to ask, seek, and knock at the door to the City and Fire Department to be able to meet here.

God, The Giver of Good Gifts

If your sons or daughters asked you for food, would you give them rocks or scorpions?

If we as broken parents know how to bless our children, then how much better can God the Father give good gifts to his children?

As we move out of this pandemic, are we ready to posture our hearts in a place of child-like humility and ask, seek, and knock on that door?

If you believe God is bothered by you, or that you're too small, or if you have devalued yourself, Jesus is inviting you now to break agreement with those lies. He has set you as a co-ruler with him, and if you have that access, then break agreement with the lie that you don't.