



THE PERSISTENT NEIGHBOR

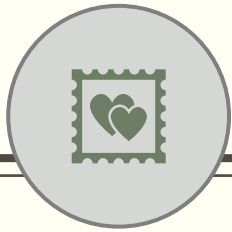
“A PARABLE ABOUT PRAYER”

Luke 11:5-8

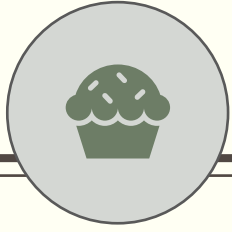


A Friend Comes at Midnight – Luke 11: 5 - 8

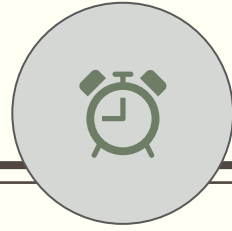
Verse 5	And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;
Verse 6	for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him
Verse 7	and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'?
Verse 8	I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.



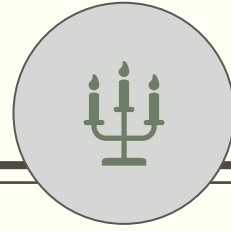
PERSISTENT
NEIGHBOR



BREAD &
HOSPITALITY



MIDNIGHT
REQUEST



PERSISTENT
PRAYER

- Persistence in Greek translates to *boldness, necessity, importunity*.
- The neighbor's desperation powered his shameless persistence.
- “Because of his persistence” – turning point, pivotal truth of the parable.
- “A Parable About Prayer”: Key requirement is **IMPORTUNITY**

Prayer Life of Jesus Christ



Constantly prayed to the Heavenly Father

Isolated Himself in a certain place to pray

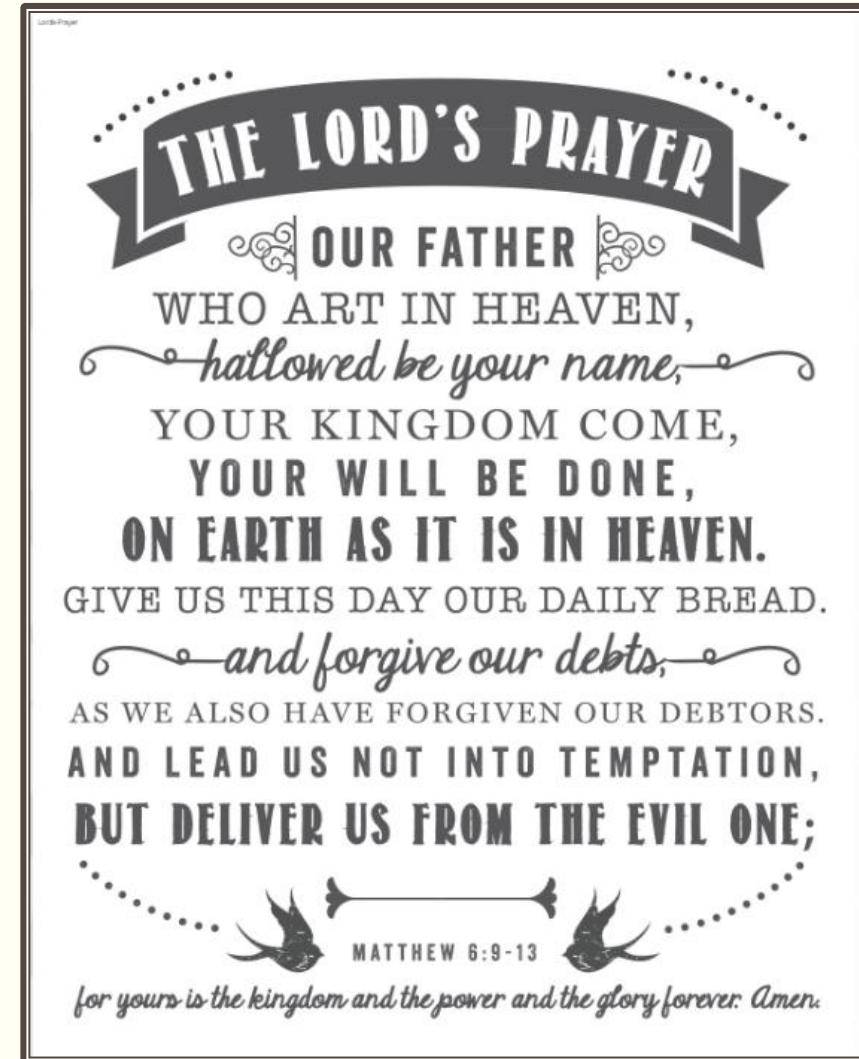
Prayer was integral part of Jesus' time on earth

Without regular prayer His tasks ahead may have been unbearable

The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4)

- Consecrate God's name
- Pray for God's Will
- Ask God for daily provision
- Ask God for forgiveness, and spiritual protection

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



3 Steps of Persistent Prayer

Step
1

A personal
Prayer –
Getting
Closer to
the Lord

Step
2

God's
priorities
may not
always
match our
demands

Step
3

Persistence
is key to
getting
God's
blessings for
prayers

Step
1

A Personal Prayer – Getting Closer to God (V. 5 & 6)

- Maintain a personal and spiritual relationship with God
- Jesus claims the character of God through the related parables
 - Generous and kind
 - Faithful Judge
- **Esther 4:11** – Typical ways kings and queens functioned in the Persian empire
- **Heb 2:17** – Jesus Christ is the merciful and faithful High Priest!
Absolutely available, approachable, gracious, and merciful!!

Step
1

A Personal Prayer – Getting Closer to God (V. 5 & 6)

- His shameless persistence is a demonstration of a well-developed relationship with his friend.
- **Isaiah 41:8** – God speaks about Abraham’s friendship with God.
 - Do we have the assurance that God knows me and understands me?
 - Do I share my interests in the things that matter to God?
 - Do I desire to spend time with God?
- We are special to God! We are part of His family! We cannot be taken out!

Step
2

God's Priorities Above Our Demands (Verse 7)

- An oddly timed request to come to his friend's home at midnight.
- The parable indicates the urgency and proximity of a believer's prayer.
- Can we assume that God would act like the selfish neighbor?
Absolutely not!
- God's will and priorities may not always align with our demands or earthly requests.

Isaiah 55: 8-9

“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

Step
3

Persistence = God's blessings for answered prayers (V. 8)

- Selfish neighbor acted because of the man's persistence.
- A mind that is persistence in prayer is very important.
- Unashamed persistence before God in prayer returns with answers in his hands.

John Knox: "Give me
Scotland or I die"

Jacob said **Gen 32:26** -
*And He said, "Let Me go,
for the day breaks." But
he said, "I will not let You
go unless You bless me!"*

A. Judson: "God loves
persistent prayer so much
that He will not give us
much blessing without it"

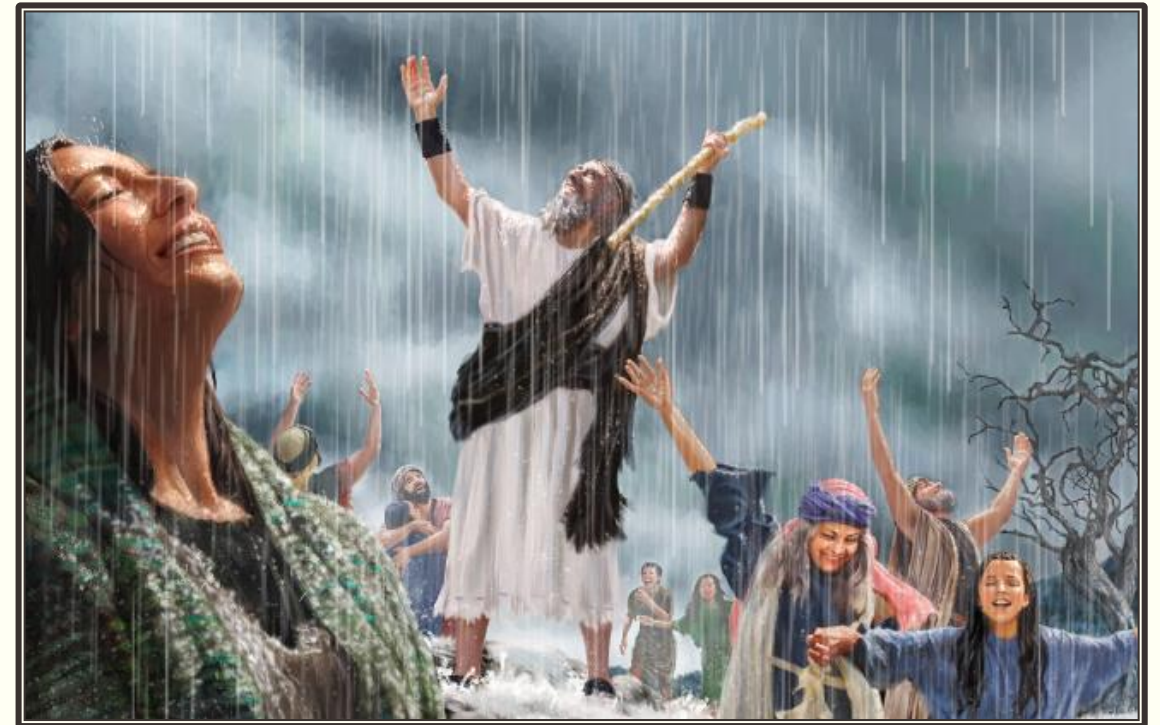
Two Persistent Intercessors

Abraham



Genesis 18: 16-33

Elijah



1 Kings 18: 41-46

Pray Persistently!

A personal Prayer
– Getting Closer to
the Lord

God's priorities
may not always
match our
demands

Persistence is key
to getting God's
blessings for
prayers

