

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 7/23 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/24 at 9:00



# Prayer

## Encouragement To Be Persistent!

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Text: Luke 11:1-13 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today's topic is prayer – *talking to God with our words and thoughts*. I hope we all pray; today we will focus on *being persistent in our prayers*.

What is the meaning of persistent? Continuing *firmly* or *stubbornly* in a course of action *despite difficulty or opposition*. It's typical to pray for a while, *then give up*. But, today, let us be encouraged to be *persistent, firm, stubborn!*

Today's text is the beginning of **Luke chapter 11**, which includes two points on prayer – before we come to the topic of persistence.

1. **The Reason for the Lord's Prayer:** <sup>1</sup> **It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."**

a. Jesus was praying – probably out loud.

- b. One of His disciples – probably one of the 70 who were sent out two-by-two ahead of Jesus and possibly a former disciple of John the Baptizer – so **not** one of the 12, and **not** one who was with Jesus when He preached the Sermon on the Mount ([Matt. 5-7](#)).
  - c. As John taught his disciples – Apparently John taught his disciples to pray certain prayers, so this disciple asked Jesus to do the same for His own disciples.
2. **The Shorter Version of the Lord’s Prayer:** <sup>2</sup> **And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> ‘Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> ‘And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’”**
- a. Since Jesus did not use *the exact form* from His original teaching in [Matthew 6](#), we should understand that there is freedom in how we pray the Lord’s Prayer:
    - i. We can use the Matthew version.
    - ii. We can use the Luke version.
    - iii. We can expand on each petition, etc.
  - b. Notice the general order:
    - i. We address the Father and mention a key characteristic: holy is Your name.
    - ii. Then we focus on God’s kingdom: ♣we are members through Jesus and ♣that membership is more important than anything in this world!
    - iii. Then we come to our physical needs.
    - iv. Then the great importance of *receiving* and *extending* forgiveness.

v. Then we seek help to avoid temptation and sin.

3. **An Example of Persistence:** <sup>5</sup> Then [Jesus] 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; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup> 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*.’ <sup>8</sup> “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.

- a. Imagine: It’s midnight, you’re in bed, you have no food in your house, and a close friend, *after a long and difficult journey*, has just arrived at your house. You need food for him, *so you are knocking on a neighbor’s door at midnight*. He says, **“Go away!”** But you keep **asking** and **seeking** and **knocking!** *You are persistent!*
- b. Have you ever started to push a cart at a store, *only to realize you took the one with the squeaky wheel*: **squeak... squeak... squeak...** Ever heard this phrase? *The squeaky wheel gets the grease! Why? Because the squeaking keeps calling for oil! So, the persistent neighbor kept asking for bread – until he got it!*

4. **Encouragement to be Persistent:**

- a. <sup>9</sup> **“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. // And why should we keep asking, seeking, and knocking with our prayers? Jesus told us:**

- b. <sup>10</sup> **“For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.** // How can we remember the order? **A-S-K:** Ask, Seek, Knock; then get ready to ➡ *receive*, ➡ *find*, and ➡ *have the way opened!*

## 5. **The Goodness of Our Heavenly Father:**

- a. <sup>11</sup> **“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? <sup>12</sup> “Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? // Certainly, NO to both!**
- b. <sup>13</sup> **“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? // Understand: The **HS** is **the greatest gift** and, as believers in Jesus, we have the HS! *So, our heavenly Father will also give us everything else as well!***

## **Take Aways:**

- **Truth** – Jesus is the One Mediator between us and God (1 Tim. 2:5).
- **Relevance** – *Bible reading and praying* keep us close to our Father in heaven.
- **Inspiration** – Keep being persistent *and He will answer!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, what a HUGE privilege to know Your Son and speak to You through prayer; make us faithful, persistent, and specific; *then grant us patience and peace!*

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible  
**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com)  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230