

## The Gospel of Luke

### Principles for Prayer

Luke 11:5-13

1. **Pray with Boldness: The Midnight Visitor** (vs.5-8)  
God is not a sleeping neighbor who is bothered by our requests and He does not need to be badgered into acting upon the good requests of His people.
  - A. **Be Merciful to the Wicked on Account of the Righteous** (Gen 18:22-33)  
Abraham requested for God to spare the wicked cities if only a small number of righteous people lived there (vs.23-26). After God granted this request, Abraham boldly requested increasing leniency five additional times (vs.27-33).
  - B. **Show Me Your Glory** (Ex 33:18-23; cf. Num 12:8)  
God had visited Moses in a burning bush (Ex 3:2) and spoke with him as men talk to one another (Ex 33:11), but Moses asks to see the face of God (v.20).
2. **Pray with Confidence: Asking, Seeking, and Knocking** (vs.9-10)
  - A. **Prayer Without Confidence? An Example** (Acts 12:1-19)  
Fervent prayer can be done without believing that God will do what we ask (Acts 12:2ff); He is able to give what we ask and more (Eph 3:20).
  - B. **Ask God for What You Need and Want** (James 4:2-3; Ps 37:4-5)  
The reason why we do not have what we need is because we do not ask for it or because we ask for good things with wrong motives.
  - C. **Receive Anything Asked According to God's Will** (1 John 5:14)  
Christians have absolute confidence that if we ask anything that is in accordance with God's will (cf. Rom 8:29) that it will be given to us.
3. **Pray With Assurance: A Father Gives Good Gifts** (vs.11-13)
  - A. **God Gives Good Gifts** (2 Kings 20:1-3, 6; 2 Chron 1:7-12)  
God's answer to the requests of kings Solomon and Hezekiah help us to see God's desire to give good things to His children.
  - B. **God Gives the Best Gift** (Luke 4:13; cf. 1 Cor 12:4-11; James 1:17))  
Jesus promises that we will not only receive what we ask for, but that we will receive God Himself who is the giver of all good gifts.
4. **How to Deal with Prayers Not Answered as We Desire** (2 Cor 12:7-10)  
We may not always understand why good things that we ask for are withheld from us, but we can rest upon the goodness of God (Ps 119:68) in His bringing about what is best for us (cf. Rom 8:29).