

## THE TRUTH ABOUT PRAYER

### I. Text – Luke 11:1

II. The disciples were impressed with the prayer life of Jesus. They noticed that when He prayed something happened. Many times when they prayed nothing happened. So the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to teach them how to be effective in their praying.

There are many people today who are confused about how to pray effectively. I read about a little six year old boy who came to his father and asked for a pet. "Sorry, son," his father said. "Not now. But if you pray real hard for two months, perhaps God will send you a baby brother." The boy prayed faithfully for a month, but it seemed futile to pray longer so he gave up. How surprised he was, when a month later, a little baby boy arrived at their home. His proud father drew back the blanket and the boy saw twins! "Aren't you glad you prayed for a baby brother?" asked his father. "I sure am," said the boy. "But aren't you glad I stopped praying when I did!"

## BODY

### I. The Principles of Prayer – Luke 11:2-4

A. When we pray according to Divine principles prayer becomes a powerful weapon.

1. Relationship with God – a Father-son relationship. (Story of Abraham Lincoln's son Tad

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Abundant Life Magazine, “The Lord’s prayer,” filed in Prayer folder.)

2. Submission to God – “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.” The will of God starts in heaven but it must be lived out on earth.

3. Spiritual sustenance – vigorous prayers are prayed by strong Christians. Many are weak and cannot pray because they have neglected their daily bread.

4. The necessity of forgiveness.

5. Resist evil – “Deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom ....” Failure to live and walk in the kingdom of God is the reason for much frustration in prayer. I am not what I feel, see or sense. I am what God says I am. I must confess this truth to the devil.

### II. The Persistence of Prayer – Luke 11:5-10

A. This parable illustrates the truth that if a human being will respond to the persistent appeals of a friend, how much more will our heavenly Father respond to us when we pray.

B. When should you stop praying? Keep praying until God answers your prayer or tells you to stop praying. The literal translation of verse 9 is, “keep on asking ...keep on seeking...keep on knocking.”

### III. The Provision of Prayer – Luke 11:1-13

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A. These verses show us that our Heavenly Father is need conscious. During World War II a want-ad appeared in the paper just before Christmas. It read, "Wanted, a tricycle. Cost no consideration." The last three words of this ad picture our Heavenly Father.

B. Why is it that some prayers are not answered the way we want them to be? God knows best and we must trust His loving judgment.

### Conclusion

God is still on the throne and He answers prayer. What is your need today? Tell God about it and He will minister to you in this moment.