

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time in your life when you experienced an important answer to prayer.

2. What do you find to be the greatest hindrance to your prayer life?

3. Read the following passages and note the Bible says about our prayer life:
 - a) II Chronicles 7:14
 - b) Psalm 145:18
 - c) Jeremiah 33:3
 - d) Matthew 6:6-7
 - e) Luke 18:1
 - f) Philippians 4:6
 - g) James 5:16

4. Why is it important to continue praying if we don't receive an immediate answer to our prayers?

5. What practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
 - I am going to commit to at least five minutes of prayer each day for the next month.
 - I am going to make a prayer list to remind me of those for whom I need to pray.
 - I am going to memorize James 5:16.

Cornerstone Church
Luke 11:1-13

January 21, 2024
Study Series #051

What About Prayer?

I. Introduction

(See Acts 12:3-17)

“Worry him with the haunting suspicion that the practice [of prayer] is absurd and can have no objective result. Don't forget to use the “Heads I win, tails you lose” argument. If the thing he prays for doesn't happen, then that is one more proof that petitionary prayer doesn't work; if it does happen, he will, of course, be able to see some of the physical causes which led up to it, and “therefore, it would have happened anyway,” and thus granted prayer becomes just as good a proof as a denied one that prayers are ineffective.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

II. What About Prayer?

A. The Posture of Prayer

(See Luke 11:1; Luke 22:39-41; I Samuel 1:26; Nehemiah 1:4; Numbers 20:6; Ezra 9:5; Genesis 24:52; John 17:1; Nehemiah 2:4)

B. The Priority of Prayer

(See Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:33)

C. The Pattern of Prayer

(See Luke 11:2-4; Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 6:7; Matthew 26:44; Deuteronomy 32:6; John 5:17-18; Malachi 1:6; I Peter 3:15; Matthew 8:11; Luke 10:9; Matthew 12:28; Mark 14:25; Proverbs 30:7-9; Matthew 6:25-33)

D. The Persistence of Prayer

(See Luke 11:5-8; Genesis 19:8; Genesis 18:1-8; Luke 11:9; Matthew 7:7; James 4:2-3; Luke 11:10; Matthew 7:8)

E. The Principle of Prayer

(See Luke 11:11-13; Matthew 7:9-11; Psalm 84:11; Psalm 34:9-10; Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19)

III. Conclusion

Communion at Cornerstone Church is open for all who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. You do not have to be a member of Cornerstone or a member of a Southern Baptist Church to observe Communion with us. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are welcome to take Communion. If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, Scripture commands that you refrain taking Communion. (I Corinthians 11:26-31)

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please see the pastor after the service and he or one of our church leaders will be glad to speak with you.

Passage of Study

Luke 11:1-13

¹ 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.” ² And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. ³ ‘Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ ‘And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’”

⁵ Then He 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; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ 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*.’ ⁸ 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.

⁹ “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. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. ¹¹ 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? ¹² Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? ¹³ 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?”

All quotations taken from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted. NASB. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers 1995. A free PDF of this note sheet is available: www.cssbchurch.org/sermons-2. © 2023.