

The Power of Bold, Shameless, Confident Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

I. Part of learning to pray is to be bold.

- A. The Greek word in Luke 11:8 translated “shameless audacity” describes “brazen persistence in the pursuit of something” (NT Lexicon, NIV Word Study Bible).
- B. Boldness in prayer comes from confidence in our standing with Jesus (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- C. Bold, confident prayer comes from our relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.
 - 1. Intimacy with God comes from interacting with the Holy Spirit in prayer. We begin to communicate and fellowship as God’s friends, and the Spirit shows us “what God has freely given us” (I Corinthians 2:12).
 - 2. Dependence is the key. The Spirit knows the mind of God and helps us to pray the mind of God. He helps us to pray even in our weakness (Romans 8:26, 27).

II. Ask, seek, knock are great descriptions of prayer (Luke 11:9, 10).

- A. The tense of these verbs indicates constant asking, seeking, and knocking.
- B. “Ask” simply means to petition God. Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to ask with confidence, which means “freedom in speaking, plainness, or exactness of speech.” Be specific!
- C. “Seek” speaks of our communion with the Lord.
 - 1. We commune, or have fellowship with, our Father in Heaven (Luke 11:2, 11).
 - 2. Luke 11:11-13 gives us a beautiful picture of how prayer works.
- D. “Knock” speaks of prayer on another level—intercession.
 - 1. Knocking is part of the boldness (Luke 11:9).
 - 2. Knocking in prayer describes an intensity and clarity that comes from the anointing of the Holy Spirit on us (Romans 8:26-27; E.g., Hannah—I Samuel 1:9-20).

III. Bold, confident, shameless prayer opens doors of opportunity.

- A. There are doors to nations, groups, and individuals that are opened through prayer. Once the spiritual door is opened, people can believe and receive Jesus.
 - 1. Openness in a location or sphere (Colossians 4:2-4; I Corinthians 16:8-9)
 - 2. Empowerment to minister fearlessly (Ephesians 6:18-19; Acts 4:23-31)
- B. Great doors of revelation, angelic activity, new understanding, and spiritual experience are opened through prayer (Daniel 10:1-14; Ephesians 3:14-19).

*Mike Hudgins
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