

Father Knows Best
2018-06-03

Luke 11:9-10

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

The easiest thing about prayer is quitting because you don't see change....it can feel/seem like God is not hearing, caring or responding.

- Christian's prayer is neither unheard nor unanswered....it's always answered in way our loving heavenly Father sees as best.

The Foundation for Christian prayer is sonship not friendship. Lk 11:5-8, Rom 8:15-16

- If an earthly friend would help, whatever his motive, how much more will the Heavenly Father respond because He loves His children. *Gospel*

The Heavenly Father is MORE inclined/able to give what is needed than the best human father. Luke 11-13

- Why then does God postpone answer/NO to some prayers?
- Like a parent, God does not withhold because He is stingy but the motivation is love, concern for our welfare and His glory. Rom 8:28
 - He's doing what's best for us even if don't understand why it's best.
 - Not get house, job, spouse.
 - Many requests are shortsighted, selfish which, if granted, would be harmful rather than a blessing to the asker. James 4:3
 - Kids asked for knife, I to live to be 100!
- Trust that infinitely wise God will ALWAYS answer, maybe not quickly (in your timing) or with yes but always with His ultimate glory & our best in mind. Quote

Jesus' parable illustrates certainty of answers to Christian's prayer on the basis of sonship & calls us to actively pursue the answer to our prayers in power of Holy Spirit.

Lk 11:9-10

- Asking is simplest & requires no movement
 - Petition addressed by an inferior to a superior.
 - Jesus never uses this word of His own asking of the Father.
- Seeking turns asking into an activity of pursuit.
 - Take action: look for job/house, seek council & God's will.
 - "Seeking" in scripture is primarily focused seeking the Lord!
- Knocking signifies a response to what is found when seeking.
 - Walk away or apply for job, call/don't call, _____
 - Take action & then place hope in Jesus, "My Almighty, good, loving God. I trust you. Do what you will when you choose to do it."

Keep on asking, seeking, knocking until answer comes, God says "Stop praying", realize request ungodly, selfish, not for glory of God, or you die.

- All 3 Greek verbs in present tense: signify continuous action.
- Persistence in prayer does not change God's perceived insensitivity or unwillingness but changes heart/mind/actions of praying person.
 - Sense of need/dependence on Lord removed when prayer answered.

- Prayer you've stopped praying? Take one day at time and persevere, persist without doubting the Father's love.

Not primarily teaching "persistence in prayer" but promising Christian's prayer is not unheard nor unanswered but always answered in the way the Father sees is best.

- Be confident of that truth because the Father didn't withhold from us His most precious gift, Jesus Christ. Lk 11:13, Rom 8:32, 1 Jn 5:14-15, Ps 84:11