

IMPROVING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

LESSON 4

EXPECTING THE FATHER'S ANSWER

Introduction:

After giving the pattern prayer, Jesus gives a parable and some promises that encourage the life of prayer.

The parable is fairly familiar to most of us. The lessons to be drawn from the parable are helpful.

I. THE FATHER ANSWERS SPECIFIC REQUESTS.

The man in parable went to his nearby friend with a specific request. He wanted three loaves of bread. He was under the pressure of the unexpected guest that had come unexpectedly to spend the night. Three would actually be more than needed, but a host would always treat the guest generously.

1. The friend was specific in his request.

His request represented more than enough to meet the need of the visitor.

2. We are encouraged to make specific requests.

The little girl who asked for a cat.

John Morgan's testimony about the little grandson.

We can learn from children.

What do you need? Not what do you want?

II. THE FATHER ANSWERS PERSISTENT REQUESTS.

The word translated "persistence" is a strong word. The NIV translates it "boldness". He would not be denied.

1. The Father has the resources.

The Father stands in sharp contrast to the reluctant friend in the parable. He is actually able and ready to answer.

2. The Father has the readiness.

3. We must have the intensity.

Regularity and persistence is the key for us. What about praying for the first two petitions in the Lord's Prayer? Surely there is never any place to quit praying for the honoring of the Lord's Name or for the coming of His kingdom.

"The effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:17

III. THE FATHER ANSWERS CONFIDENT REQUESTS.

1. We can be confident because of the character of God.

"How much will your Father in heaven.."

2. We can be confident because of the promises of God.

Ask, seek, knock

But what if God does not answer?

Trust God.

Know that He always knows what is best.

There may be a delay. A delay is not necessarily a denial.

What needs do you have in your personal life? Something that is needed for you to be at your best in your responsibilities. Health, money, insight

What needs do you have in your family? Something that is needed for the well-being of your family.

What needs do you see in the life of your church?

What needs do you see in the life of your friends?

What needs do you see in the life of others? How many unsaved people do you know for whom you are praying?

What needs do you see in the life of our nation, and world?