

Coach House Church

BEACONS

NEED TO PRAY?

9TH JULY 2021

Hey - are you struggling? Do you need to speak to God for help? Unsure how to do this amazing thing called prayer? Well, stick with me over the next few minutes and hopefully you'll go from this Beacon, able to pray and leave all your worries and cares with Jesus, knowing He will answer all of your requests.

So first let's look at what Jesus says about prayer. He left in the bible a wonderful pattern of effective prayer that He gave His disciples. It's an amazingly simple little prayer. Lets look at what it says in Matthew 6:9-13

Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9-13,NLT)

Now, here at the end of this remarkable lesson in prayer, Jesus brings one of the most perceptive parables that He ever told. It's known as the Parable of the Friend at Midnight.

This story contains one of the most famous bible messages today: "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

One big and important message in that verse is this..... listen carefully... Your prayers are always answered. Read it again **YOUR PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS ANSWERED,**

It is time we learn it, and believed itBut we must also learn that there are a number of ways that our prayers can be answered. Any parent, knows that you use the word "No" infinitely more with your children than you use the word "Yes."

"Can I have . . .?" "NO!"

"Will you buy me . . .?" "NO!"

"Can I go to . . .?" "NO!"

My dear friend Harrison is a bit of a joker. He's always one to crack a joke at work. He'll make some clever quip. Generally make us laugh and keep the team guessing whether he's playing a trick or not. Now one of his most favourite things to do is ask "Can you get me a Dogdo..." and when we reply "Whats a Dogdo..?" He'd bark. The same trick goes for Catdo, DuckDo CowDo etc etc. Now as a parent I'm sure Noah and Eli if asked the question what does Daddy say? the answer would be a loud "NO, NO, NO"

Often when we pray, I think God is going, "No, no, no!" But for some reason, many of us have come to the conclusion that God's only answer to our prayers should be "Yes." Not so. Never! God often says "NO!" And sometimes He says, "YES!" And sometimes He says, "WAIT!"

We must never stop asking, or seeking, or knocking. We are to be determined in our prayers until one of those answers comes.

God may not give us everything we ask for, but we cannot say that He does not hear us.

In Exodus we are told that God heard the cries of His people in bondage to the Egyptians, His answerdeliverance

GOD IS THE FRIEND WE CAN GO TO AT ANY TIME TO SUPPLY OUR NEEDS

Luke 11:5 " Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread." NLT We have all kinds of needs, physical needs, emotional needs, psychological needs, spiritual needs God is concerned about every one of them

GOD IS MUCH MORE WILLING TO GIVE THAN WE ARE READY TO ASK

We should ask...

You see "asking" implies humility and a consciousness of our need because if you ask, you will receive. Now, let me take a moment to give you a brief lesson in Greek grammar the word "it" in verse 9 does not refer to the thing asked for, but modifies the word ask the "it" you will receive is the answer and not necessarily the thing you asked for.

We are to seek - "seeking" is "asking" plus "acting" it implies earnest searching and putting feet to our prayers.

It means actively looking for God to speak through His Word, or His Church, or through circumstances, or through the Holy Spirit

If we seek, we shall find, we are to knock... "knocking" is "asking", plus "actively seeking" an answer, plus "persevering" one knocks again and again until the door is opened and an answer is given. If we knock, the door will be opened.

God does not have to be high-pressured, compelled, coerced, or pleaded with.

He delights in answering our prayers and longs for us to come to Him with our needs.

God will not always grant the request, but He will always give you an answer.

When He does grant our requests, He always gives us good things.

Luke 11:11-13 "You fathers—if your children asklel for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people 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."

God will never give us anything that will harm us. That may be why we don't always get some of the things we pray for!

What are your needs right now? Are you eager and willing to approach God with them? With God it is never midnight; He never lacks anything; He is never "bothered" when any humble child approaches Him; And He is never taken by surprise for what we might ask.

So how do we pray? - We must quiet ourselves, because prayer is not a one way stream, its a conversation. Its hard to hear someone with noise going on all around. Find a quiet place, and ask God to speak. Bring your requests and concerns to Him, and then listen. Wait and listen. Sometimes answers don't come right away, but no that God ALWAYS answers your prayers.

Lets pray



Coach House Church

222 Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 2QN
leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604
Registered charity in England and Wales - 1194822



Jamie Baker

Worship & Creative // Trustee
jamieb@coachhousechurch.org