

# Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Prayer

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Luke 11: 9 – 10.



"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. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."  
Luke 11: 9 – 10.



# I. Introduction

The secret of a fulfilled life is to find in God the source of eternal life and to maintain with Him a permanent relationship of peace, love, and joy. The prayer is one of the finest ways to enter into the heavenly courts and to come boldly to the throne of grace in all circumstances.



"God does nothing  
but by prayer, and  
everything with it."  
John Wesley



"We don't  
pray to get  
God's  
attention. We  
pray to turn  
our attention  
toward Him."  
Christopher  
Knippers

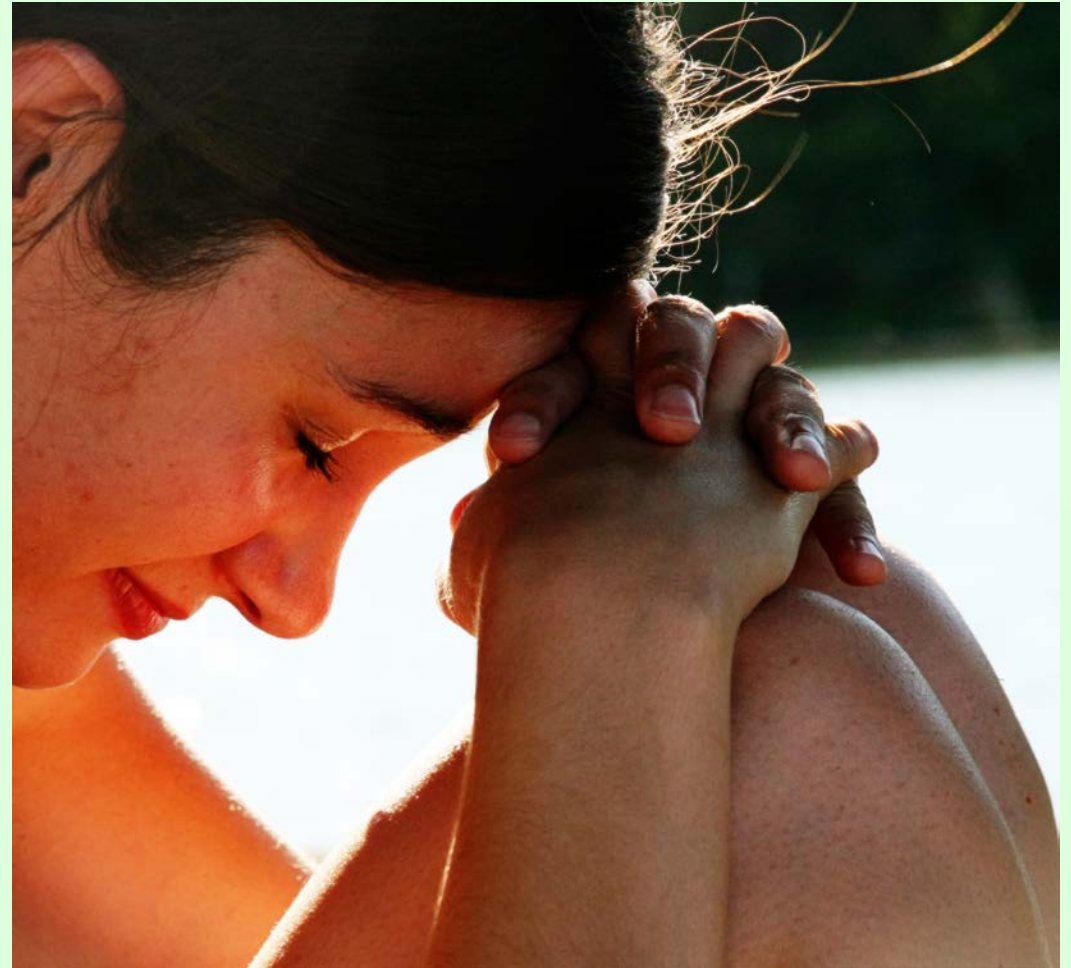


"We have to pray  
with our eyes on  
God, not on the  
difficulties."  
Oswald Chambers



"Whenever I'm in trouble, I pray.  
And because I'm in trouble all of  
the time, I pray almost  
constantly."

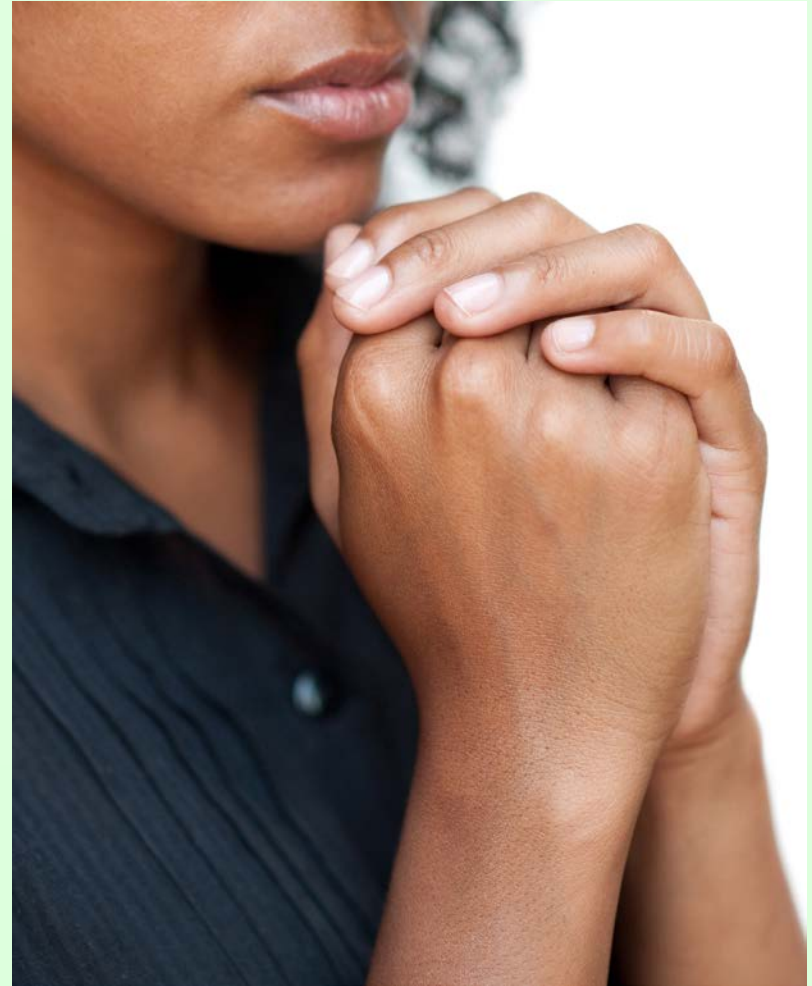
Isaac Bashevis Singer



"Many cry to God, but not with the voice of the soul, but with the voice of the body; only the cry of the heart, of the soul, reaches God."  
Augustine



"Seven days without prayer makes  
one weak."  
Allen Vartlett



# II. Context



On His road to Jerusalem,  
(Section #5 of the Gospel of  
Luke), after His own prayer,  
the disciples of Jesus  
requested Him to teach them  
how to pray. In chapter 11: 1  
– 13, He presented His  
teaching in a powerful way,  
encouraging His followers to  
cultivate a regular prayer time,  
as well as to send requests to  
our heavenly Father with the  
certitude of receiving answers.



## The structure of the Gospel of Luke

In	1: 1 – 4	Search for Authentic Narrative about Jesus
1	1: 5 – 2: 50	Incarnation (Prophecies, John the Baptist and Jesus)
2	2: 50 – 4: 30	Nazareth (Baptism, Temptation, and Ministry in Nazareth)
3	4: 31 – 7 : 50	Capernaum (Headquarters of Jesus for his Ministry in Galilee)
4	8: 1 – 9: 50	Every City and Village
5	9: 51 – 19: 27	Trip to Jerusalem (Jesus' Ministry on the road, Samaria and Judea)
6	19: 28 – 21: 38	Jerusalem (Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission)
7	22: 1 – 23: 56	Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial
8	24: 1 – 24: 53	Jesus' Resurrection, Post-resurrection Teaching, and Ascension

# The Narrative of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts

Jesus' Birth (Decree of Caesar Augustus, Roman Empire)	Jesus in Galilee (Country of Gentiles, with important Jewish presence)	Jesus in Samaria and Judea	Jesus In Jerusalem	Passion, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension	Church in Jerusalem	Church in Judea and Samaria	Church among the Gentiles	Church in Rome
Luke 1 - 2	Luke 3 - 9	Luke 10 - 18	Luke 19 - 21	Luke 22 - 24	Acts 1 - 7	Acts 8 - 10	Acts 11 - 26	Acts 27 - 28

After presenting the 'prayer-model' (11: 2 – 4), Jesus shared with His disciples an illustration, showing that it is normal to send requests to God for our needs. He loves us and is ready to answer to our prayers.



## The Structure of Luke 11: 1 - 13

I.	1	<b>NEED FOR JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT PRAYER</b> "Teach us to pray"
II.	2 - 4	<b>JESUS' TEACHING HOW TO PRAY</b> "Our Father in heaven..."
III.	5 - 8	<b>JESUS' ILLUSTRATION ABOUT PRAYER</b> "Friend, lend me three loaves"
IV.	9 - 12	<b>INVITATION TO OVERCOME RELUCTANCE TO SEND REQUESTS</b> "For everyone who asks receives..."
V.	13	<b>CONCLUSION: GOD IS READY TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT</b> "How much more..."

## The Structure of Luke 11: 2 - 4

I.	INTRO	<b>JESUS' TEACHING HOW TO PRAY</b> "So He said to them, "When you pray, say:..."
II.	A.	<b>CALLING GOD OUR FATHER</b> "Our Father in heaven"
III.	B.	<b>THREE REQUESTS ABOUT GOD</b> A. Hallowed be Your name. B. Your kingdom come. C. Your will be done on earth as <i>it is</i> in heaven.
IV.	C.	<b>THREE REQUESTS ABOUT OURSELVES</b> A. Give us day by day our daily bread. (PHYSICAL NEEDS) B. Forgive us our sins (SPIRITUAL NEEDS) C. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us..." (NEED FOR PROTECTION FROM EVIL)

# The Structure of Luke 11: 9 - 12

A.

## THREE ENCOURAGEMENTS

- A. Ask, and it will be given to you;
- B. Seek, and you will find;
- C. Knock, and it will be opened to you.

B.

## THREE CERTITUDES

- A. For everyone who asks receives,
- B. and he who seeks finds,
- C. and to him who knocks it will be opened.

C.

## THREE EXAMPLES

- A. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone?
- B. Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?
- C. Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

# III. Invitation to share with God our concerns, needs, and prayers



# 1. Sending Requests to God

"Ask and it will be given to  
you..."



"The reason why we obtain no more in prayer is because we expect no more. God usually answers us according to our own hearts."

Richard Alleine



“God prefers requests more than instructions. Therefore, when you pray, don’t talk too much. Just formulate your needs, and He will provide everything according to His grace.”  
(DS)

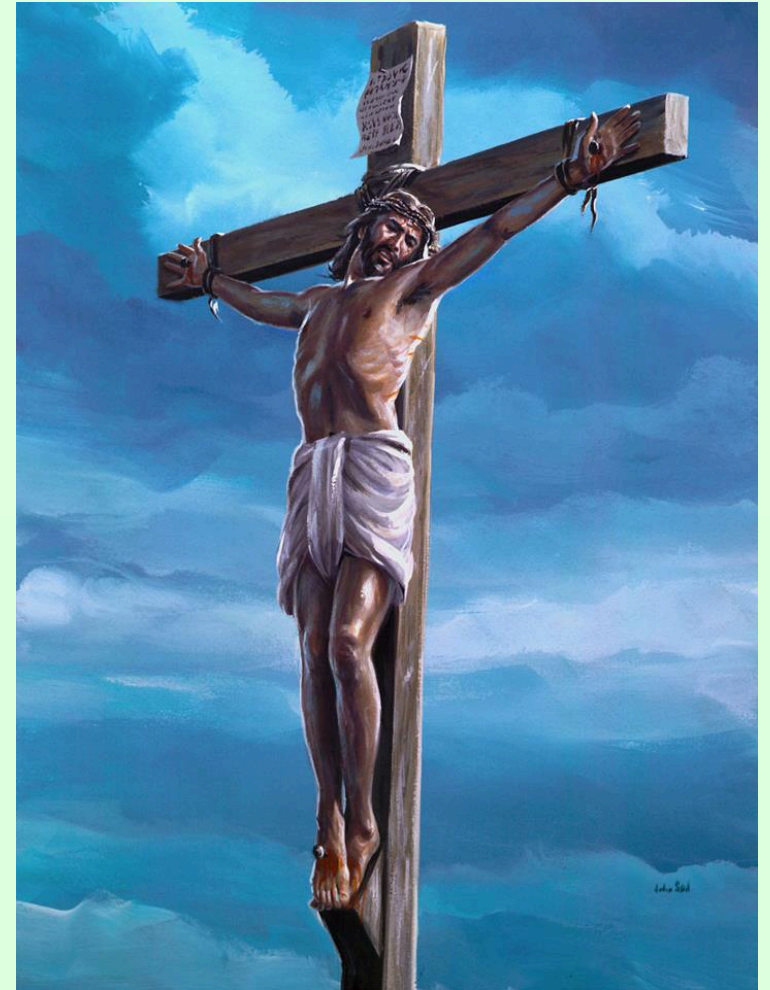


"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him.  
I ended up asking God to do His work through me."  
Hudson Taylor



"An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as full as if there were no others."

A. W. Tozer



"The greatest tragedy of life is not  
unanswered prayer, but unoffered  
prayer."

F.B. Meyer



2. Search for Truth,  
Wisdom, Love...  
Seek for God  
"seek, and you will find..."



In our search we need to change the perspective. It is essential that we look everything with God's eyes.

"Every great and deep difficulty bears in itself its own solution. It forces us to change our thinking in order to find it."

Niels Bohr



"I think science is about the search for God; it just comes at it from a different angle than religion."  
Chris Carter



“We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open.”  
Jawaharlal Nehru



“What writing teaches me, over and over, is that God is waiting to be found everywhere, in the darkest corners of our lives, the dead ends and bad neighborhoods we wake up in, and in the simplest, lightest, most singular and luminous moments. He's hiding, like a child, in quite obvious and visible places, because he wants to be found. The miracle is that he dwells in both.”

— Shauna Niequist, *Cold Tangerines: Celebrating the Extraordinary Nature of Everyday Life*



### 3. God has solution for all blocked situations

“knock, and it will be  
opened to you...”



"Sometimes we stare so long at  
a door that is closing that we  
see too late the one that is  
open."

Alexander Graham Bell

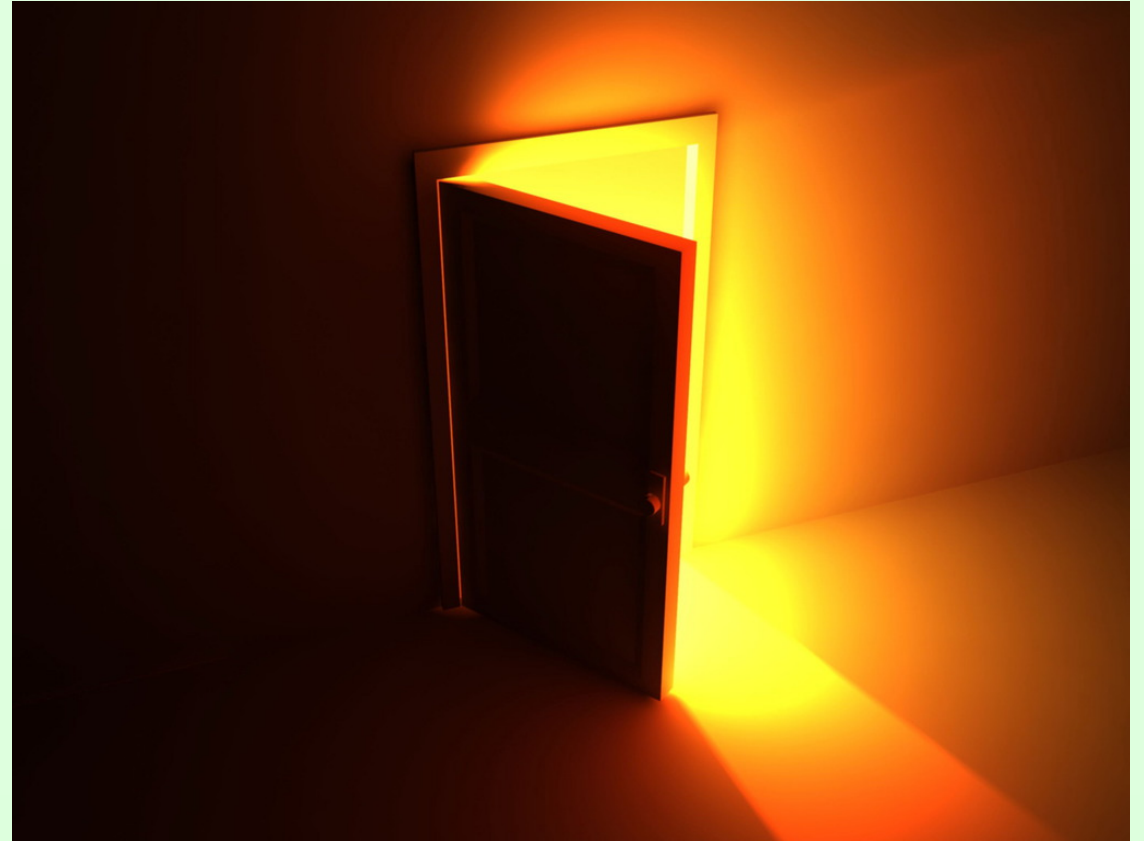


"You are invited to come, to ask, to seek, to knock, and you are assured that you will not come in vain. Jesus says "Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." Jesus illustrates the willingness of God to bless by presenting before us the willingness of a father to grant the request of his child."

Ellen G. White, Christian Education, p. 172.



"I believe if you keep your faith, you keep your trust, you keep the right attitude, if you're grateful, you'll see God open up new doors."  
Joel Osteen



# V. Conclusion



“Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly. So often we do not pray in certain situations, because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But, nothing is impossible with God. Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied: no human relationship is too strained for God to bring about reconciliation and understanding: no habit so deep rooted that it cannot be overcome: no one is so weak that he cannot be strong: no one is so ill that he cannot be healed. No mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant. Whatever we need if we trust God He will supply it. If anything is causing worry or anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and trust God for healing, love, and power.”

Anonymous, Review and Herald, October 7, 1965.

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all  
our sins and griefs to bear. What a  
privilege to carry everything to God  
in prayer."

Joseph Scriven



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Luke 11: 9 – 10.

