

## Luke 11:5-13

<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you goes to his friend at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> because a friend of mine has come to me on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup> And the one inside answers, ‘Do not bother me. My door is already shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up to provide for him because of his friendship, yet because of the man’s persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

<sup>9</sup> So I tell you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Berean Study Bible

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1

### **Pray with power. Luke 11:5-13**

Parable of powerful prayer. 5-8

Jesus tells a hypothetical story. 5 “Suppose”

Jesus tells a high-impact story. 8 “I tell you...”

Principle of powerful prayer. 9-10

The triple driver is Jesus’ character. 9 “I. Tell. You.”

The triple decider is Jesus’ words. 9-10 “Ask... Seek... Knock”

Practice of powerful prayer. 11-12

Ask expectantly. 11-13 “if... asks... if... asks... if ask”

Expect generosity. 13 “how much more”

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2

### **Powerful prayer. Luke 11:5-13**

Powerful prayer is persistent. 5-8

Answers are slower than we want. “persistence”

Answers are whatever we need. “as much as he needs”

Powerful prayer is personal. 9-10

Actions get answers. "Ask... to you"  
Expectations need expressions. "Seek... find..."

Powerful prayer is practical. 11-13  
Our Father gives us good gifts. "...good gifts"  
Our Father gives us His Spirit. "give the Holy Spirit"

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3

### **Holy Spirit-inspired prayer. esp. v13**

The Holy Spirit will give to you as much as you need. 5-8  
Persistent seeking. 8 "because of persistence"  
Permanent supply. 8 "as much as he needs"

The Holy Spirit will give to you where you need it. 9-10  
What I receive is related to how I search. 9 "seek-find... knock-door"  
What I receive is guaranteed because I search. 9-10 "will"

The Holy Spirit will give to you better than you think. 11-13  
It is God's nature to give good. 13 "evil know how to give good"  
It is God's nature to give more. 13 "how much more will"

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4

### **Pray big prayers. Luke 11:5-13**

Ask for what only God can answer. 5-8  
Ask for what is needed. 6 "I have nothing"  
Ask what is not normal. 7 "door is already shut"

Ask, expecting God will answer. 9-10  
Ask in faith. 9 "will... will... will..."  
Ask differently. 10 "ask... seek... knock"

Ask, expecting God's good answer. 11-13  
Ask for good. 13 "give good gifts"  
Ask expecting spiritual answers. 13 "Holy Spirit"

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5

### **Let me tell you a story. Luke 11:5-13**

A hilarious story. 5-8  
A hopeful story. 9-10  
A horrid story. 11-13

**Asking is one thing, but answers is something else. Luke 11:5-13**

I can always ask. 5-8

I can ask in my own night. 5 “midnight”

I can ask in another’s need. 8 “needs”

I always get when I ask. 9-10

An answer is always given if I ask. 9-10 “Ask... seek... knock”

An answer is always given when I ask. 9-10 “will be given...”

I don’t always get what I ask for. 11-13

The answer may be different. 11-12 “ask for... give...”

The answer will be good. 13 “how much more”

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7 – [Apologetic / Evangelistic](#)

**The Bible doesn’t make any sense to me. Luke 11:5-13**

Read the Bible in its social-historic context. 5-8

The Bible is reliable historic evidence. (5-7. hospitality, communication, housing)

The Bible is reliable modern principles. (8. lessons to be learned)

Read the Bible for its core principles. 9-10

Look for what it teaches me about God. (generous in providing)

Look for what it teaches me about me. (lacking resources and answers)

Read the Bible to improve the person I am. 11-13

Be honest about where I am, now. 11-12 “evil... good”

Be honest about where I could be. 13 “give the Holy Spirit”

**What do you want from God? Luke 11:5-13**

I want God to solve my problems. 5-8

But God is always so slow. 7 “I can’t give you anything”

But God only gives basics. 8 “as much as he needs”

I want God to give me answers. 9-10

Answers need the right questions. 9-10

Answers don’t always look like answers. 9-10

I want God to be nice to me. 11-13

Good doesn't feel good. 13 "give good gifts"  
Spiritual doesn't feel good. 13 "give Holy Spirit"

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9

### **There's power in persistence. Luke 11:5-13**

Persistence means eventually. 8 "I tell you... because of..."  
Negative events are opportunities. 6 "I have nothing"  
Negative people are resources. 7-8 "Don't bother me... I can't... he will..."

Persistence means actually. 9 "So, I tell you... will... will... will..."  
Take the initiative. 9 "Ask... Seek... Knock..."  
Pursue your goals. 10 "receives... finds... opened"

Persistence means eternally / especially. 13 "So, if... how much more..."  
Expect good. 13 "give good gifts"  
Expect the unexpected. 13 "give the Spirit"

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10

### **What do we want? Answers! When do we want them? Now! Luke 11:5-13**

Answers are slow. 5-8 "persistence"  
Make appropriate requests. 5 "lend me three loaves"  
Have appropriate reasons. 6 "friend has come"  
Hear an appropriate reply. 7 "one inside answers"

Answers are certain. 9-10 "will"  
Express questions in different forms. 9 "ask... seek... knock..."  
Expect answers in different forms. 9 "given... find... opened..."  
Expect answers at different times. 10 "...will be..."

Answers are spiritual. 11-13 "Spirit"  
Answers may be surprisingly different. 11-12 "...fish ...snake"  
Answers will be naturally good. 13a "good... how much more..."  
Answers will be spiritually focused. 13b "Holy Spirit"

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11

### **I didn't see that coming. Luke 11:5-13**

Answers come eventually. I need to be patient. 5-8  
Think about what I am asking. 5 "three loaves of bread"  
Think about why I am asking. 6 "I have nothing"

Think about how I am asking. 8 “persistence”

Answers come certainly. I need to be thankful. 9-10

Pray with the outcome in mind. 9 “Ask... seek... knock”

Pray with expectation in mind. 9 “will”

Pray with gratitude in mind. 10 “will be opened” (passive voice)

Answers come spiritually. I need to be flexible. 11-13

Look for a different answer. 11-12 “fish... snake, egg... scorpion”

Look for a ‘good’ answer. 13a “give good gifts”

Look for a spiritual answer. 13b “give the Holy Spirit”

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12

### **Pump up the prayer power. Luke 11:5-13, esp v8**

Persistent prayer accepts the bigger picture.

Stay factual.

God is sovereign.

Persistent prayer has an optimistic attitude.

Let go of the problem.

God is personal.

Persistent prayer desires a better future.

Stay realistic.

God is good.

Persistent prayer overcomes emotions.

Stay positive.

God is love.

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### **Other possible titles**

The secret is out: Jesus is the funniest guy in town.

Don't take the Bible so seriously!

Cognitive dissonance as a teaching tool.

A.S.K. (Ask. Seek. Knock)

~~Don't quit~~! (ie. Do it!)

Hang in there!

The value of delayed gratification.

Knock, knock, knocking on Heaven's door. (Bob Dylan)

You can't always get what you want. (Rolling Stones)

Pray with Persistence. Or Impudence. Or Shameless Audacity. Whatever. (James Jackson)

## Music and songs

### Songs based on this text

Ask, seek, and knock.

Ask, seek, knock. (Jana Long)

Ask, seek, knock. (Lionel Valdellon)

I'm reading my B.I.B.L.E. and this is what it says to me. (Wakerley)

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. SiS 96

### Songs about persistence / perseverance

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah. H 540

He who would valiant be... to be a pilgrim. H 530/531

How lovely on the mountains... Our God reigns. SiS 201

I can do all things in Christ.

I walk by faith. Ot 32

Is your burden heavy... Reach out to Jesus, CWH2

I'll still love You. (Andre Crouch)

I'll trust in Him. (Jimmy Owen Singers)

Just at the right time (S W Brown)

My faith, it is an oaken staff. H 535

O soul are you weary... Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Ch 147

Onward Christian soldiers. H 520

See what a morning (Getty)

Somebody's miracle. (Brian Free)

Sometimes by step. Ot 30

Stand up, stand up for Jesus. H 522

Teach me Thy way, O Lord. H 536

True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal. H 541

We are a people of power. SiS 652

Where there's a will He has a way

You can trust Him. Ot 92

### Songs about prayer

Hear our prayer (Tanya Riches)

I'm praying for you. Ot 33

Let Us Pray. (Steven Curtis Chapman)

Make my life a prayer to you. (Melody Green)

Sweet hour of prayer.

What a friend we have in Jesus. H 421 / C 279

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## Biblical context, and text

Luke 11:1-4 What to pray

Luke 11:5-13 How to pray

The parable recorded in Luke 11:5-8 is found in no other place. It is unique to Luke. However, the teaching that follows the parable is similar to material which Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 7:8	Luke 11:5-13
<p><sup>7</sup> Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?</p> <p><sup>11</sup> So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!</p> <p><sup>12</sup> In everything, then, do to others as you would have them do to you. For this is the essence of the Law and the prophets.</p>	<p><sup>9</sup> So I tell you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> What father among you,  if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?</p> <p><sup>13</sup> So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"</p>

Luke 11:5-8	Luke 18:1-8
<p><sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you goes to his friend at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> because a friend of mine has come to me on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And the one inside answers, 'Do not bother me. My door is already shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up to provide for him because of his friendship, yet because of the man's persistence, he</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray at all times and not lose heart: <sup>2</sup> "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected men. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept appealing to him, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God or respect men, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice. Then she will stop wearing me out with her</p>

will get up and give him as much as he needs.	perpetual requests.” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to the words of the unjust judge. <sup>7</sup> Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He continue to defer their help? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, He will promptly carry out justice on their behalf. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?”
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### **Persistence**

ἀναίδεια [Strong's 335] Only occurrence of this word in the New Testament. A compound word of ἀ meaning 'without' or 'not', plus αἰδώς 'shame, modesty, reverence'. Therefore, shamelessness, without embarrassment.

The more common word for persistence / perseverance is ἐπιμένω [Strong's 1961] for which there are 17 New Testament occurrences. This is also a compound word made up of ἐπι meaning 'on, upon, above' plus μένω meaning 'remain, tarry, persist'. Hence, 'continue on with persistence'. Once in the Gospels (John 8:7), 7 times in Acts, 3 times in Romans, twice in 1 Corinthians, once each in Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1 Timothy.

A similar word, for which there are 32 occurrences, is ὑπομονή [Strong's 5281]. This is yet another compound word of ὑπο 'under, below, beneath' plus μένω 'abide, remain, stay, wait'. Therefore, 'remaining behind, patient enduring, steadfastness'. Found twice in Luke 8:15 and 21:19, but in no other Gospel.

### **Doors are not opened at night**

After the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' But he will reply, 'I do not know where you are from.' Luke 13:25

<sup>10</sup> But while they were on their way to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later, the other virgins arrived and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!' <sup>12</sup> But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Matthew 25:10-12

### **Ask**

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.” Psalm 50:15

In my distress I called to the LORD, and He answered and set me free. Psalm 118:5

Call to Me, and I will answer and show you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3

### **Seek**



Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Luke 13:24

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4

My heart said, "Seek His face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek. Psalm 27:8

I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4

Young lions go lacking and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Psalm 34:10

### **Knock**

In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from Your sight!" But You heard my plea for mercy when I called to You for help. Psalm 31:22

Everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Matthew 7:8

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### **Quotes and illustrations**

#### Quotes on persistence

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. Calvin Coolidge

Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination. Napoleon Hill

Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in. Bill Bradley

If you're going through hell, keep going. Winston Churchill

Champions keep playing until they get it right. Billy Jean King

If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run then walk if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recovery is "Patience, Practice, and Persistence".

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### **Thought starters for personal reflection, or group discussion:**

1. What does the word 'perseverance' mean; and why is it a virtue? What is the difference between 'perseverance' and 'patience'?

2. Is it possible for perseverance to actually be foolish?
  3. What is one occasion when you needed perseverance? Was it difficult, and was it worth it?
  4. When may a Gantt Chart, used in Project Management, be a useful tool in prayer?
  5. How does 2 Peter 3:8-9 and Hebrews 10:36 help me persevere?
  6. How should I change my prayer if I am asking, a) for the wrong outcome; b) with the wrong motive; c) at the wrong time?
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