

- ✍ We have spent a lot of time on prayer over the past 3 months; reigning in a lot our misconceptions and false notions of what it is and what it isn't. We've seen that prayer is not bringing a briefing to heaven or shaping heaven but really the means by which heaven shapes us and conforms us to glory of God, will of God and the kingdom of God. It's a puny view of God and prayer that says that God can be manipulated, swayed, or informed about anything. Ultimately, there is no contingency outside of the glory, will and kingdom of God, Job 42:2. Nothing God says ever changes because there's never any more information, unlike our word that we have to change constantly because there are so many things that we don't know. When God makes a declaration, there are no other contingencies, there is nothing He doesn't already know about what will happen, Proverbs 19:21. "I know it; I have planned it; I will carry it out," Isaiah 14:24; Isaiah 46:9-11. The dates are fixed, Acts 1:7, Acts 4:27. Why am I telling you this? This directly effects our attitude about prayer doesn't it?
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1. Why even pray?, why bother? Number one, He tells us to.

- ✓ Look at the some of these prayers that come at pivotal times in God's plan, Nehemiah 1:5-6. Not exactly just a "Oh, Lord, let your will be done" kind of prayer. Psalm 17:1; Psalm 55:1; Psalm 143:1, "We should never speak to God like that," really? Why then are these kinds of prayers indorsed in the inspired text? They sound just like this guy in Luke 11 who needed bread from his neighbor. Know that God's in charge and that His will is fixed, without any contingency, but never doubt the importance of prayer. Luke 11:8 "Persistence" some translations say "Importunity," means persistence but in an annoying way. This word only shows up in the Greek one time in the entire New Testament. So, Jesus picks a very special word to convey how He wants us to pray. So, we have the diagram of prayer in Luke 11:1-4 and the attitude of prayer in Luke 11:5 and following.

2. Jesus tells us that our attitude in prayer is to be one of annoying persistence!

- ✓ Do you like to be woken up in the middle of the night for an emergency? But this is not an emergency! Hospitality was held in high regard in this culture, but what he asks for tells us there was no real reason to wake up his friend. "Three loaves" is not referring Wonder Bread or anything of the like but three flat bread loaves that amounted to little more than tortillas. He's short 3 tortillas, so he wakes up his neighbor out of a sound sleep because he didn't want to leave a bad impression with his unannounced guest. This is over the top. Understand the emphasis is that this request is not life or death, not serious at all, only something that would have mattered to the man making the request and nobody else. It is this level of request that Jesus says we should bring and not give up on. It only mattered to that man. Jesus is teaching that if it matters to you, don't just mention it, be shamelessly persistent about it! Luke 11:9-10 "I say to you." This isn't some preacher's opinion. This is the incarnate Son of God telling us this. Given all that's going on in the world, sometimes our comparatively unimportant issues seem like asking for 3 tortillas at midnight, don't they?

If it matters to you then it matters to Him...bring it up! and don't let up! The only thing that is more rude than being rude to God is not coming to Him with whatever is on your heart! As high and lofty as praying to the God of the universe is, never forget Jesus told us to call Him our Father! Children don't need a good reason, they don't need a pass, or to be put on God's agenda in advance, children come to their Father on the least whim of need. They don't wait on seemingly shut doors or hold up because of odd hours or strange request, they seek, ask, knock, and don't give up.
