

UNTIL THE DOOR OPENS: CROSSING THE LINE FROM PRAYER TO INTERCESSION

⁵ And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? ⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

Luke 11.5-10 NKJV

Illustration: *A woman spoke on the phone with the manager at a theater; and she told him that she had lost a valuable diamond pin the night before. The man put her on a brief hold; so they searched for the pin and it was found, but when he returned to the phone the woman had already hung up. He waited for her to return the call and even announced it on the newspaper, but he never heard from her again. Many Christians are the same. We pray to God and tell Him about our problems and needs, but we fail to wait for His answer. As a result, we miss out in the joy of an answered prayer, we do not receive the answers to our needs and we miss out on the reward and delight of persistent faith. We must persevere until the door is opened and our prayers are answered.*

Questions:

- What must we do when we pray, yet receive no answer?
- Why is it important to be perseverant when we pray?
- What can we do to develop the habit of perseverance, until the door is opened?

Introduction: *If we tried to badger the president of the United States by exposing a problem or making a petition; surely someone would make sure we are either taken out or silenced. If we were to make petitions all at once, the president wouldn't understand what we are asking. God is the total opposite, even though He is the most important being in the universe, He is the one we must badger because He has the capacity to hear us all at once. What door do we need opened? What petition do you need answered? To develop the habit of perseverance in prayer we must:*

1. ASK UNASHAMED (Luke 11.5-9)

- a. When we are praying and asking God for something; we must do it in an insisting way until we badger Him. **I.e.** This man was not afraid to go out at midnight and ask his friend for a favor; so because he insisted the door was opened.
- b. If we know that what we are asking for is according to God's will, then we must not be ashamed to insist and ask God. Though the door you are knocking seems impossible to open; He will make sure it is opened. (1 John 5.14)
- c. If we have dreams in our life and we believe that the fulfillment of these dreams depend on God; then we must not grow tired of asking. Do not grow tired of praying for your children, your husband, for a good job, your residency, your health...that door will be opened.

2. WE MUST SEEK “seek, and you will find.” Luke 11:9

- a. When the Bible says we must seek, this means that we must move towards what we desire, it's to say, we must act not only ask. God blesses our prayers but also the work of our hands.
- b. This means that we must also seek the presence of God in our time of prayer. One of our priorities must be to desire the presence of God (Psalms 105.4).
- c. We must seek answers and God's promises that are found in His Word, so that it encourages us to continue seeking the fulfillment of our petitions.

3. **WE MUST CALL** “knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9

- a. This means that we must insist until something breaks. It is like knocking a door until it falls back so that we can obtain our answer (Psalms 88.9).
- b. Many times we think our faith is demonstrated by simply confessing our desires, and by saying God will give them to us; but the Bible teaches that we must ask, seek and call. This type of faith is completely dependent on God.
- c. We need to persist in prayer, our petitions, in seeking and in insisting; knocking the necessary doors until they're opened or knocked down (Romans 12.12).

4. **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRAYER AND INTERCESSION**

- a. **Prayer:** Intimate communion with God, where we share something in common. God wants to share His: joy, dreams, happiness and pain. God wants us to feel the pain He feels for humanity and the problems in life: families, children, marriages...
- b. **Intercession:** It is to stand in the gap for others and their needs. God is looking for intercessors who stand in the gap. We must stand on behalf of others, for their healing and deliverance.
- c. There's no need to wait to be in a jail cell to start having compassion for those who are in jail. There's no need to wait for someone to be severely sick, so that we can have compassion for the sick. Nevertheless, let's begin to have compassion for those in need by joining in this **fast until November 24th**.

Conclusion: *Many dreams have stayed half way. Many petitions will end up on a sheet of paper and thrown away in the trash; because someone grew tired of asking, seeking and insisting. The Bible says we must seek the Lord while He can still be found. This is a time where we can find God through Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.*

SINNER'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and live so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.