

## **Prayer School Series!**

### **Part 7: "From Importunity to Intentional Prayer"**

**Winding down a "School of Prayer" series...** We want to know what the Bible says about praying but "knowing" is not as important as "doing!" Connecting with God and following His instructions is the most important thing! Only in right connection to God will we be able to interpret our world and order our steps!

**Our world... Ireland's landslide vote for same sex marriage...** "This shows how much we've changed, how attitudes are changing, to see all of the young people come out to vote, that wouldn't usually vote who wouldn't normally be interested in politics." "I think my sister should be able to get married!" **Midland, MI Anti-gay Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church resigns after posts surface on Grinder...** Going to help the LGBT agenda... **Almost daily, ISIS recruits being found in mainstream American cities!** President doesn't think we're losing this battle to ISIS... Contrary to most all military leadership! Though Palmyra has fallen... creating large ISIS state over two countries! Syria's Assad regime is about to fall too! **Vatican Adviser, Jeffrey Sachs, Says America's Founding Document Is Outmoded, Reveals Global Game Plan** 9/25 193 gov'ts are resolved to take a step in solidarity toward a better world.

**Prayer School...** Connecting to "our Father..." Craziest prayer they ever heard prayed! Engaging the Holy Spirit, to pray answerable prayers! The first form of prayer "intercession..." NT enteuxis: *Conferring with God...* Regarding people/events/circumstances/ situations... "that we happen upon..." OT paga: things that "fall upon us," and "reaching assigned place." Added the power of "agreement!"

**Asides... Forms of prayer...**

"I exhort therefore that first of all supplications, prayers and intercessions be made for all men..." **1Tim 2.1**

**Supplications:** deesis: needs. **Prayers:** proseuche: concerns. **Intercessions:** burdens: enteuxis: conferencing with God on matters we have come upon that need to be fixed or influenced... Paga: OT: hearing the command and pressing thru until goal is reached... **Holy Spirit prayers:** "Who helps us in our feeble abilities because we don't know what and how we should pray, but He makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered... **Romans 8.26 Prayers of agreement:** "If any two of you will agree on earth as touching any thing that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven... for where two or more gathered together in My name there I am in their midst! **Mt18.19,20**

**Holy Spirit led conferencing with God by people who are moved by others needs and will fight thru to the end... Yield much fruit and wield much power to influence and change events they happen upon or that come on them!**

**Luke 11.5ff** Which of you having a friend who you go to at midnight and say, I have a need... and he says, 'Sorry, but my door is shut and I'm in bed, I cannot get up and help you now...' Though he will not get up and help because he is your friend, yet he will get up, because of your "importunity" he will get up and give you whatever you need!"

**Text Study... First have to remember where we are!** The disciples have been watching Jesus and they realize the source of His power is His connection with God... "Teach us to pray like you pray so we can have the results you do!" They have prayers! Hundreds of them! They want ones that work! **So Jesus launches the "intimacy factor!"** If you want to pray, like I pray, begin with "Our Father..." **Intimacy with God changes everything!** Conversation that removes guessing! Connection that removes "hope-so!" Conference that aims faith! **Then He gives them framework for confidence!** Talking to your Dad who is "safe and resourced" in heaven! Praying according to His will and kingdom! Acknowledging needs and concerns and removing hindrances! **Then He hits the "importunity" issue!** "Which of you having a friend... can't get him to come thru on importunity?" **v8** "But I am telling you that if you ask, it will be given, if you seek, you will find, if you knock that door is going to open..." **v9** "Because everyone who asks of God, receives. And he that seeks, finds. And the one who is knocking will find the

*door opening to him...” v10 “If a son asks his dad for bread, will his natural dad give him a stone? NO? v11 “If a son asks his dad for a fish, will his natural dad give him a snake? NO?” v11 “If a son asks his dad for an egg, will his natural dad offer him a scorpion? NO? v12 “So, if a natural dad knows how to give good gifts to their children, *how much more* will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask? v13*

**Jesus makes it clear that the Holy Spirit, *the One who helps us in our conferencing with God*, was His source of power! The Best Friend, the Holy Spirit, in contrast to the natural friend, changes *importunity to intentionality*! We don’t have to wear God out to get what we want, we just need to be *intentional* with our asking, seeking, knocking!**

**In Fact...** “He spoke a parable to them to this end, that men should always pray and not faint! There was a judge who didn’t fear God or man but there was this widow who came asking for justice and at first he wouldn’t do it – then he said, this widow is going to wear me out with her constant request, let me give her what she asks!” And He said, *hear what the judge said!* And will not God avenge His own elect who are crying out day and night, though (to them) it seems to take time? Yes. Speedily.” “If the *unjust judge* knew how to give justice how much more *your Father*?

**THIS IS A CONTRAST, NOT COMPARISON!**

But will the Son of God find faith on the earth when He comes?” **Luke 18.1-8** Faith demonstrated by what? Intentional connection to God: “PRAYER!”

### **Intentional Prayer Works!**

Of 39 ESL Students prayed for... 9 don’t know their status... 14 have attended Vida or Vida events (and I suspect that many/most got saved but don’t know)... 2 saved, 1 (maybe both) going to church elsewhere... 14 saved and attending Vida. Including Aracely, Chuy’s wife!!!!

***Only eternity will tell the whole story, but I believe our prayers made a difference...***

### **The Progression to Answered Prayer!**

**I know what you have need of before you even ask...**

**You come to Me... asking, seeking, knocking... (sounds like a Dad!)**

**And I will give it to you because it is My good pleasure to give you the kingdom!**

**I have what you need but you don’t have it because you don’t ask! So, ASK!**