

Be Still: Cultivating Intimacy with Our Creator
September 16, 2007

“The Prayers God Encourages”
Luke 11:5-13

Introduction:

Tony Campolo, a well-known Christian writer and speaker, tells a story that demonstrates some of the confusion surrounding prayer. His son Bart, who was seven at the time, came into the living room and announced he was going to bed for the evening. But then he added, “I’m going to be praying before I go to sleep. Anybody want anything?” Sometimes we struggle to understand the types of prayer that God encourages.

Interpretation:

- God encourages us to pray boldly.
- God encourages us to pray believing
- God encourages us to pray for his best.

Application:

Going Deeper

1. For better or for worse, how is prayer often like a fishing expedition for you?
2. Considering the contrasts offered in Jesus' parable on prayer in Luke 11:5-13, which of these contrasts have been historically difficult for you to believe? Which have been easy?
 - Lesser earthly friendships shared among men, contrasted with the greater relationship between us and our Heavenly Father. (Luke 11:5-8)
 - Mankind as a lesser gift giver, contrasted with God the greatest gift giver. (Luke 11:9-10)
 - Lesser earthly gifts of fish and eggs, contrasted with the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:11-13)
3. Considering the prayer that Jesus encourages, which of these three types of prayer comes most easily? Which is most difficult for you?
 - Bold prayer – Hebrews 4:16
 - Believing prayer – Ephesians 3:20
 - Prayer for his best – James 1:16-17
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident are you that God hears your prayers and answers?
5. What do the following Scriptures indicate about the importance of being confident that God hears our prayer and answers?
 - Mark 11:20-25
 - James 1:5-7
 - James 4:2
 - Hebrews 11:1

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