

Bible Study ~ PRAYER
Wednesday, JULY 19, 2023, by Pastor Dwight Benoit
Lesson 11

“...LORD, teach us to **pray**...” (Luke 11: 1)

Tips for a Deep and Effective **PRAYER** Life...

- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD** and Be Specific in Your Asking
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD**, **Pray** in Faith and Believing
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD**, fight Distractions that would keep You from **Praying**
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD**, focus on Your Abiding in **JESUS** to Bear Fruit
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD** and **Pray HIS Promises**
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD**. Don't Give Up—Keep **Praying**
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD**. If You struggle getting started, Read **The Bible** first and Respond to **HIS WORD**
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD** and Confess Your Sin(s) Know You are **Praying** to **GOD** and Don't Worry about **Praying** Eloquent **Prayers**
- Know You are **Praying** to **GOD**, **Pray** Humbly

Now Read, Matthew 15: 23, 24

Focus Thought: “Chance **PRAYER** vs. Persistent **PRAYER!**”

Chance [probability, risk, gamble, uncertainty, long shot, toss-up]

Persistent [insistent, determined, constant, faithful, unyielding, dedicated]

There is a *difference* in the way People seek **JESUS** and **Pray**...

1. Some **Pray** by Chance or with *no* expectancy. They **Pray** because they think **GOD** *just might hear*. They are not quite sure—they cannot point to any (and certainly not too many) instances when **GOD** really did answer (Not *Believing* **GOD** did!) But they **Prayed** anyway in case **GOD** *might hear*.
2. Some **Pray** with Persistence or *Perseverance*. Their **Prayer** will not take “no” or “silence” for an Answer.

In this Lesson Text, this Mother, truly Loved her Daughter and showed her desperation.

She knew **JESUS** was Her only **Hope**, so She would not *quit*. She would not be discouraged by anything—not by “silence,” not by an *objection*, not even by an apparent *rebuff* from **JESUS**.

Let's Learn this about **Praying** to **GOD** our **FATHER**...

- **Pray** Persistently.

Note the Mother's *Obstacles*...

--**JESUS** was “silent.” V. 23a, “But **HE** answered her not a word.” Note what really happened:

Mother's Love and a *sense of desperation* were really seen. She Loved so much that She was not going to let **JESUS** go, until **HE** helped Her. She kept after **JESUS**...

Despite **HIS** silence... Despite the *objection* of **HIS** disciples... Despite Her being undeserving...

Point:

- a. Her Faith in **JESUS** had to be 'awakened' in Her heart before **CHRIST** could minister. [A person cannot just haphazardly approach **CHRIST** at every whim and fancy and expect to receive Help. There *must* be a true and sincere heart, a genuine seeking and an awakened Faith *in JESUS*.
- b. As *disciples of JESUS (JESUS' servants)* we *must* minister from a heart filled with *Compassion* for all. We must minister to *the despised* as well as to *the accepted*.

What to Do when **JESUS** says, "**I AM not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**" (Matthew 15: 24b) [It was **The TRUTH!** **JESUS** had come with this *primary purpose*. **HE** had to concentrate **HIS** ministry if **HE** was to achieve **HIS purpose**. But What Do You Do, When You have a *Need* like Your Daughter "...grievously vexed with a devil." (Matthew 15: 22f)

- Like this Mother, we need to Learn *persistence, humility* and *trust*.
- Like this Mother, we need to Learn our only *Hope* is in **CHRIST JESUS!** [Oh, **HIS purpose** may have been The Jews, and She acknowledged that, BUT the only *Hope* She (we) had/have is *in CHRIST JESUS!*
- **CHRIST JESUS Alone** is **LORD** and **MASTER WHOM** She (we) is to Worship and to **Pray!** This Mother and We must Learn the same Lesson that "**GOD in CHRIST JESUS, Hears** and Answers our **Prayers** (Relationship is Important) ...

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock,
and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth;
and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."
(Matthew 7: 7-8)