

# Prayer's Certainties

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 11:5-13.

B. If we could master principles of prayer it would be worth far more than a PhD.

## II. True prayer never arises unless it is out of a true sense of need.

A. The man seeking bread showed an utter audacity in getting what he sought.

B. Jesus is ironically pointing out through the reluctant giver that God is a willing and free giver. God does not tantalize us by holding out false hopes in prayer.

## III. Levels of prayer.

### A. Ask.

1. This is the simplest of the levels.

2. The range of these needs is wide.

3. One must ask God in faith. When one asks, one should take it for granted that it will come and move on. (James 1)

4. God loves to be trusted—only faith can lay hold of what He gives.

### B. Seek.

1. Seeking is not a simple act—it is a process.

2. Paul affords an example of this when he sought relief from his “thorn in the flesh.” (II Corinthians 12)

3. God told Paul that His grace was sufficient for him in the trial.

### C. Knock.

1. One knocks when he is trying to break through walls of existence.

2. For instance, when we need to break through a friendship or ministry barrier we must knock.

## IV. The provision of prayer: the Spirit.

A. This does not refer to the initial reception of the Holy Spirit—this is addressed to people who are already believers. (I Corinthians 12)

B. Every Christian needs to be continually filled with the Spirit giving himself over to His mastery.

C. Power comes from continual asking, seeking, and expecting that the Lord has done it — when this happens God marks us with the marks of power and living epistles to be read by all men.

**Application questions:**

1. Explain the differences of asking, seeking and expecting according to the speaker.

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2. How has God answered your prayers in a way that has encouraged your faith?

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3. Why is the Spirit so essential to proper prayer? Explain.

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