

The Ultimate Answer

Luke 11:5-13



“Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” (11:1)

Jesus' response

- A Pattern (*The Lord's Prayer*)
- A Parable (*But* *God is not like that!*)
- A Proper Perspective
(*The God of the "how much more"*)

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, *how much more* will your Father in heaven **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!” (11:13)

The Ultimate Answer

The Holy Spirit who empowers us to pray.

“Prayer is essentially a question of the Spirit of prayer.” (O. Hallesby)

Wrestling in Prayer!

We find it hard to pray.



Spiritual warfare

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Works of the enemy

The enemy will always try to sabotage our prayer life:

- **Extra busy**
- **Restless mind**
- **Accusation, temptation & ...**

Not only *before* but also *during* prayer.

Battle between flesh and spirit

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

(Matthew 26:41)

Galatians 5:17-18

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”

Hindrances of the flesh (1)

- **Self-sufficiency** (antithesis of helplessness)

“Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only those who are helpless can truly pray... Your helplessness is the very thing which opens wide the door unto Him and gives Him access to all your needs.” (O. Hallesby)

Hindrances of the flesh (2)

- **Tired of praying**

“We all love to see results from our labors. But the work of prayer is of such a nature that it is impossible for us always to know definitely whether what happens is a fruit of our own intercession or that of others.”

(O. Hallesby)

Hindrances of the flesh (3)

- **Selfishness**

We don't care enough for others.


Wrestling in prayer

- Spiritual warfare (works of the enemy)
- Battle of the flesh and spirit (hindrances of the flesh)
- **Struggle with Sin**

Struggle with Sin

Sin keeps us from praying but **prayer keeps us from sinning.**

- Listen and respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit convicts but does not condemn (See Romans 8:1-2).



“You will begin to realize more and more that **prayer is the most important thing you do**; and that you can use your time to no better advantage than to pray whenever you have an opportunity to do so, either alone or with others, while at work, while at rest, or while walking down the street. Anywhere! **We can make use of our time in no better way.**” (O. Hallesby)