



## CHURCH@HOME OCTOBER 2016

### CONCEPTS OF PRAYER (I)

LORD; TEACH US HOW TO PRAY:

*(Luk 11:1) And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.*

*AMP Then He was praying in a certain place; and when He stopped, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, [just] as John taught his disciple*

- The disciples, observing and hearing Jesus pray knew within their hearts that they did not know how to pray. So they said to Jesus; “Lord, teach us how to pray”.

**READ: Luk 11:1-18, Jon 2:1-3, Gen 18: 17-33, Jas 5:13-16.**

- Prayer is not only asking God for something you need; prayer is having daily intimate fellowship with the Father.
- There is a ‘right’ way to pray and there is a ‘not so right’ way to pray.

*Luk 11: 9 So I say to you, Ask and <sup>[b]</sup>keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek and <sup>[c]</sup>keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and <sup>[a]</sup>keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.*

Three things that constitutes effectual prayer:

1. Asking,
2. Seeking and
3. Knocking.

Everything we ask of God comes to us through doors that are open to us; doors of opportunity. Not every prayer is pleasing and acceptable to God. Not every prayer produces results. It is extremely important that we learn how to pray right.

PRAYER NEVER BEGINS WITH ‘I’:

MARY’S PRAYER: “LORD THEY HAVE NO WINE” (Jon 2:1-3)

- Effectual earnest prayers that please God and produce results never begin with ‘I’.

PRAYER IS MANDATORY NOT OPTIONAL:

- Prayer is the life line of a believer; it is supposed to be the breadth of a believer.
- God expects us to pray. “When you pray.....” (Luk 11:2)

Prayer is a spiritual transaction between friends (Luk 11:5-12)

EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER: (Jas 5:13-18)

In order for prayer to be effectual, pleasing to God and produce results there has to be an established platform of friendship and an ongoing relationship.

No matter what is happening in your life, pray. Don't grumble, don't cry and don't talk to people; PRAY.

BECOME A FRIEND OF GOD: Abraham had a deep intimate relationship with God.

- Have an intimate relationship with God.
- Abraham had a major need in his life yet he went ahead interceding on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Abraham's prayer was directed towards changing the mind of God and moving the hand of God from destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen 18: 17-33)

IMPORTUNATE PRAYER: (Luk 11:8)

- Prayer puts God at the center of your life.
- Regardless of whatever is going on in your life; pray.

**SUGGESTSED DISCUSSIONS:**

1. *Why is it so important to pray every day and not only when there is trouble?*
2. *Explain what importunate prayer is.*
3. *How can one develop an intimate relationship with God?*
4. *Where in the Bible is Abraham actually called the friend of God? And why did God call him His friend?*