

GETTING YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED

Request: Some of us are still struggling with getting our prayers answered.

The disciples of Jesus ask Him to teach them to pray just as John taught his disciples (11:1).

Jesus responded with a four-part lesson on prayer in Luke 11:1-13. We will examine these four parts by the following homiletical sections.

- Motive for prayer (11:1)
- Model of prayer (11:2-4)
- Method of prayer (11:5-8)
- Mechanics of prayer (11:9-13)

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of the section entitled, “Mechanics of Prayer (11:9-13).”

1. The section on the Mechanics of Prayer is also recorded in Matt.7:7-12.

We will identify the similarities as well as the differences found in these two passages on prayer.

[After reading them, can you find any differences?]

2. One similarity is the formula used for successful prayer (Luke 11:9-10; Matt.7:7-8). Note the command and the promise of God that are given to every believer.

- **Ask** (aiteo/ p.a.impv.2pl), and it shall be given to you - for everyone who asks, receives.
- **Seek** (zeteo/ p.a.impv.2pl), and you shall find - and he who seeks, finds.
- **Knock** (krouo/ p.a.impv.2pl), and it shall be opened to you - and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.

What is the point? [Procedure, promise, and performance]

3. One difference is found in the father hypothetical illustration of prayer (Luke 11:11-12; Matt.7:9-10).

‘Now suppose one of you father is asked by his son.’

- Luke 11: fish give snake (no!); egg give scorpion (no!)
- Matt.7: bread give stone (no!); fish give snake (no!)

What is the point? [daily needs: how the food chain works: Father, family, feed]

4. The *a fortiori* technique (lesser to greater) is used by both Matthew and Luke regarding Getting Prayer Answered.

“If (1cc/ true) you then, being (hupoarcho/ paptcnplm) evil (poneros/ 1 John 5:19/ cosmos diabolicus), know (oida/ intuitive knowledge) how to give good gifts (agathos doma) to your children, *how much more* shall your heavenly Father –?” (Luke 11:13) (Matt.7:11)

What is the point? _____

5. A difference is found in *this a fortiori* technique between Luke 11:13 and Matthew 7:11.

Luke says that the Father will give a Holy Spirit. There is no definite article with Holy Spirit. This emphasizes the work of the Spirit (spiritual good or divine production of OT).

Matthew says that the Father will give what is *good (agathos doma)* to those who ask.

They both teach the same doctrinal principle. “*Matt.7:11 has ‘give good gifts,’ meaning spiritual gifts. Luke emphasizes the work of the Spirit, the greatest of God’s gifts.*” (NIV, Luke 11:13)

According to Luke, whatever one asks for, God will give “good gifts.” An example of this doctrinal point is found in (2 Cor.12:7-10 and Acts 10:38).

6. Matthew differs in that he adds a rabbinical golden rule (7:12). It is not recorded in Luke’s account.

“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

What examples do we have in our lesson texts? [food chain: fish and bread and egg?]

“The so-called Golden Rule is found in negative form in rabbinic Judaism and also I Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. It occurred in various forms in Greek and Roman ethical teaching. *Jesus stated it in positive form.*” (NIV, Matt.7:12)

7. The Golden Rule emphasizes the intermediary role in Getting Prayers Answered.

Believers can play an intermediary role in the plan of God regarding getting prayers answered.

- Jesus (Heb.7:24-26)
- Holy Spirit (Rom.8:26-27)
- Believers (2 Cor.8:5, 14-15; 9:10-15; Matt.25:35-40; 1 Kings 17:9,14, 19-24; Col.4:2-4).