



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PRAYER?

Prayer is your personal and loving communication with God. Through prayer we can find strength of spirit, guidance, wisdom, joy, and inner peace.

- Psalms 118:5-6
- Psalms 138:3
- 1 Peter 5:7
- Phillipians 4:6-7

A prayer maybe long or short. It may be done alone or in a group. It may be said silently or out loud. But no matter how it is done, it should be a true and sincere communication with God, and not done for public recognition.

- Matthew 6:5-8

Prayer should include:

- Expressions of **faith** and **trust** in God. (James 1:6)
- **Confessions** of our sins. (1 John 1:9)
- **Praise** of God's deeds. (Ephesians 3:20-21)
- **Thanks** for all the good things we have received. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- **Dedication** to serve God and other people. (Romans 12:1-2,6-8)
- **Requests** for our needs and the needs of others. (Psalms 5:1-3,11-12)

Jesus spent a lot of time praying – often praying for hours in a solitary place especially at difficult times.

- Matthew 14:23
- Mark 1:35
- Luke 5:16
- Luke 6:12

The Lord's Prayer: the Perfect Prayer

Jesus gave us a model of a perfect prayer in the Lord's prayer. However, because it is so familiar to us and while we find comfort in the act of saying the words, we don't always think of what the words are saying. The words for the Lord's Prayer in the pew Bibles are different from what we are use to saying, which will cause us to focus on what the words say.

If we turn to Matthew 6:9-13, we see that Jesus said, "You should pray like this:"

- Address God as our "Father" and praise his name.
 - Ask that God's will be done on earth and in our lives.
 - Ask to be given what we need, but not what we want.
- Matthew 6:9
 - Matthew 6:10
 - Matthew 6:11

- Ask forgiveness of our sins and acknowledge that we will forgive those who sin against us.

- Matthew 6:12

- Matthew 5:44
- Matthew 6:14-15
- Mark 11:25-26
- Luke 6:28

- Finally, ask for strength to resist temptation.

- Matthew 6:13
- Luke 22:40

AMEN

We traditionally end prayers with Amen which comes from a Hebrew word meaning truly, faithfully, or so be it.

- 1 Chronicles 16:36
- Romans 11:36
- 1 Peter 5:11

God *will* answer our prayers and will give us everything we need and more.

- Mark 11:24
- John 15:7

but...like all good parents, God will not give His children everything they want. Prayer is not a way to get whatever we want, and it is not a “quick fix” for problems we should be solving ourselves. God answers prayers in His own way and in His own time.

- Psalms 40:1-3

God will not grant requests that are against His purposes, that are selfish, that are not in our best, long-term interest, or that have wrong motives.

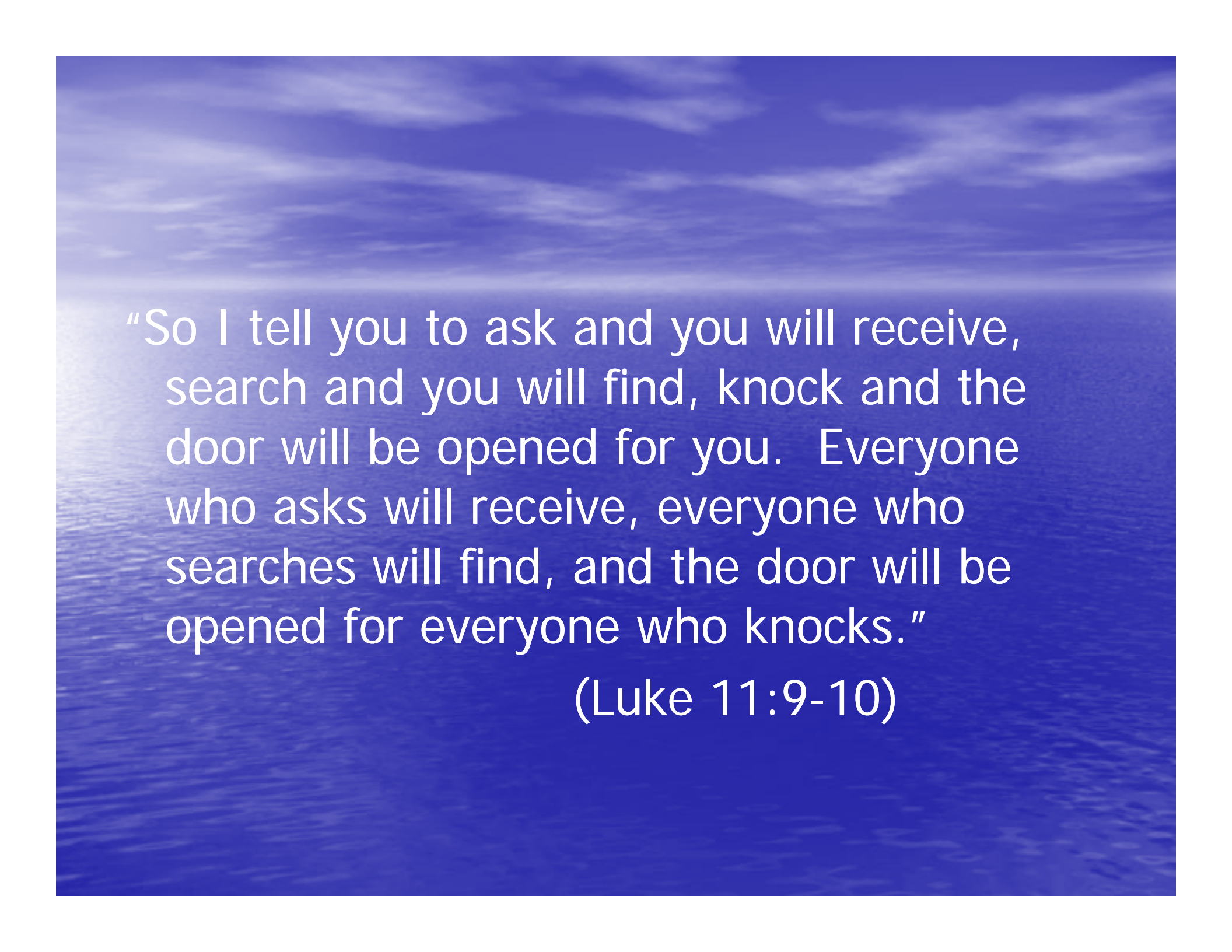
- Psalms 66:18-19
- Proverbs 28:9
- Isaiah 59:2
- Hebrews 11:6
- James 4:3

Often we must be persistent in our prayers. When the answer comes, it may be very different than what we want or expect. Sometimes the answers must come from within ourselves which is how praying persistently with help us find these answers.

- Luke 18:1-8 (p.1086)
- Deuteronomy 3:23-27 (p.171)

Have the right attitude and sincerely try to do God's will, and the Holy Spirit will guide us.

- John 14:15-17
- John 16:14 1
- Corinthians 2:12-13
- Galatians 5:22-26
- Colossians 3:16



“So I tell you to ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks.”

(Luke 11:9-10)