

**Spiritual How-to's**  
**Shameless Prayer**  
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**INTRO. Continuing with our "String of Pearls" style of teaching, today's pearl is about shameless prayer and we find it in Matthew 7:7-11**

This is the famous passage where Jesus tells the crowd to ask, seek and knock with the promise that they will be answered. You remember it,

**ASK – it will be given**

**SEEK – you will find**

**KNOCK – it will be opened to you**

**What does this really mean? Name it and claim it. We can have anything we ask for?**

**I. These verbs, ask, seek and knock are all three present imperatives.**

**A. Imperatives are commands. There are 2 kinds in the NT -**

1. Present -to keep doing something indefinitely
2. Aorist – do a particular thing at a specific time

**B. Present imperative = ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking**

**C. Jesus is telling us that our praying is something we are to keep on doing.**

1. All of us have ebbs and low tide prayer times. Geesh, I'm in one right now.
2. **But the point is to not stop. Keep on asking. Keep on seeking. Keep on knocking**
3. Maybe the duration of your prayer time is in a shorter season, just keep on. Don't quit.

**D. I always imagined these verbs, ask, seek and knock in prayer to mean extended, long and drawn out prayer times with intercessory breakthroughs and tremendous insight.**

1. These prayer times were wrestling matches like that of Jacob and the angel.
2. So I always felt like I fell short. Cuz that wasn't me.

**E. What I've come to understand about prayer is it is about asking. Simply asking the Father what's on your heart and what's on His heart.**

1. Asking can be a short, shout of "HELP!"
2. Or a heart wrenching, pouring out of emotions.
3. The asking is to be something that we keep on doing. Keep on asking. Keep on.

**F. Prayer also involves another level, that of seeking.**

1. Seeking is a deeper level of prayer that involves searching, wondering, pondering, looking for an answer. Considering options, ideas, advice.
2. **Seeking is for The Spirit's leading and insight to be revealed, not our own way.**

**G. Knocking prayer is prayer that is asking for something to be opened up to you.**

1. It may be entrance into the presence of God
2. It may be for fellowship and intimacy.

3. It may be opening new opportunity, insight, or revelation

H. All three of these kinds of prayer are prayers we are to keep at. Not stop.

**II. But there is another dimension of prayer denoted here. We find in in Luke 11:9-13**

In this passage Jesus disciples had just asked Him to teach them to pray.

A. He gave them **“The Lord’s Prayer”** model

B. But then He goes on to share this story of a **friend who shamelessly woke his neighbor at midnight asking for bread.**

C. **Importunity** – the only place it is used in the NT. = w/o shame, bashfulness, or modesty. Boldly.

1. In ancient literature it represented lack of sensitivity to what was proper – shamelessly and boldly awakening a neighbor.

2. This neighbor got his answer by being shameless and bold.

3. Not because he was his friend.

D. **We see a similar story in Luke 18:1-8. Where Jesus taught that “men might always pray and not lose heart.”**

1. A **widow kept coming to a judge** for justice against her adversary.

2. The judge refused her justice but because she kept coming to him and bothering him, he finally gave in and answered her request.

E. Then **Jesus says, “And will not give justice to His elect who cry night and day to Him?”**

1. God promises to answer that shameless, bold prayer request.

2. Because the request just keeps on coming, doesn’t quit.

F. And the finale question, which is so appropriate for us is, “ when the Son of man comes, **will He find faith on earth?”**

**III. My friend, let’s covenant together, to renew our prayer places, to renew our commitment to persistent, bold and shameless asking, seeking and knocking.**

**A. Let us not grow weary... Gal. 6:9**

He gives power to the faint ... Isa. 40:29-31

Consider Him, so that you don’t grow weary ... Heb. 12:3

**B. Ask** – Zech. 10:1; Mat. 21:22; Mk. 6:22; Jn. 14:14; 15:7; 16:24; Eph. 3:20; Jas. 4:2  
1 Jn. 5:2

**C. Seek** – 1 Chron. 28:29; Ps. 27:8; 119:10; Pro. 18:17; Jer. 29:13; Mat. 6:33; Col. 3:1  
Heb. 11:6

**D. Knock** – Rev. 3:20; Acts 12:16

**E. With importunity and persistence.**