



GOSPEL REVOLUTION

“Audacious Faith”

Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8

October 18, 2015

The Gospel Prayer

“In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You love me more and nothing I have done that makes You love me less. Your presence & approval are all I need for everlasting joy. **As you have been to me, so I will be to others.** As I pray, I’ll measure Your compassion by the cross and Your power by the resurrection.”

Our Words Message Series in Words Thus Far

Abide Amazed Accepted Approval & Affection
Abundance & Allocation

Today We Add: Access & Audacious John 15:7

We Must See the Priority of Prayer Vs 1

- ✓ It is Critical
Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 9:28-29; 11:1; Mark 1:35
- ✓ It Is to Be Constant & Consistent
Philippians 4:2; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- ✓ It is Not For Us to Share Information With God
- ✓ It Is Not For Us to Try & Change God’s Mind
- ✓ It Is For Us to Share With the Lord and Listen to the Lord
- ✓ It Is For Us to Intercede For Others

- ✓ It Is How the Lord Has Established His Work to Be Accomplished James 5:16

We Have the Pattern for Praying Vs 2-4

- ✓ The Person & The Place
- ✓ The Praise
- ✓ The Purpose
- ✓ The Provision
- ✓ The Pardon
- ✓ The Protection

We Are to Be Persistent in Our Praying Vs 5-11; 8:1-8

Matt. 7:7-8; Jer. 29:12-13; Heb. 4:16; James 4:2; Matt. 13:58

Persistent: Shamelessness, Audacity, or Boldness.

We Are To Keep Asking, Seeking, and Knocking

We Are to Believe the Promise in Our Praying Vs 12-13

- ✓ God Loves to Give
- ✓ God Uses Our Prayers
- ✓ God Always Answers our Prayers
- ✓ God Always Gives Us What is Best & Always Does What Is Right

“God sometimes answer our prayers by giving us what we would have asked for had we known what He knows”

GOSPEL REVOLUTION

“Audacious Faith”

Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8

October 18, 2015 A.M. Service

We want to talk this morning about having an audacious faith and doing something and seeing something happen that we didn't think we could do or could possibly happen. Will we really take God at His Word and believe that He will do what He said He would do and be who He said he would be – We are reading about it every day as I hope you are reading in the Gospels five days each week! Well, let me share with about this guy and doing something He would never dream he could do!! **Opening ILLUS: Guy falling in the Grave – Larson**

The Gospel Prayer

“In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You love me more and nothing I have done that makes You love me less.

We Abide and We are Amazed

Your presence & approval are all I need for everlasting joy.

We Understand that We are **Accepted**, Ands Have God's **Approval & His Affection** and because of that it changes how we live and why we do what we do. We live out the Gospel because we have been radically changed by the Gospel!

As You have been to me, so I will be to others.

We turned that corner last week and began to work our way to letting this Gospel spill out of our lives into the lives of others. We love others in response to the love we've experienced in the Gospel – we've experienced the extravagant generosity of God and so therefore we understand we extend that same generosity others. God's Great **Abundance & Our Allocation** of those Resources

The Gospel motivates us to generosity not by **Guilt** (we never give enough) or **Greed** (We give so we can get) but by **Grace** (we give because we have received). **The bottom line is that it is impossible to believe the gospel and not become like the gospel!**

And Let's tie **Week 1** with **Week 6** and it ties it all together – [John 15:7](#)

“If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you” And here we add the last part of the Gospel Prayer that has helped us think deeply about the Gospel Revolution and helped to guide us along the way.

As I pray, I’ll measure Your compassion by the cross and Your power by the resurrection.”

We should approach God with a sense of how much He cares for us and those for whom we are praying. God demonstrated His love for us on Calvary. The Jesus who cared so tenderly for even those who were crucifying Him is the same Jesus to whom we present our requests. In the same way, we measure God’s power by the resurrection. We should ask God sized requests in line with what we see about God’s intentions and power revealed in the gospel.

Today we add two more Key Words – **Access** and **Audacious** (Faith) Daring, Bold, Brave, Fearless, Courageous

Because We Have Unlimited & Unconstrained Access to our Heavenly Father We Should Have an Audacious Faith to Ask!

What Kind of Faith Do We Have? Is It *Audacious* or is it *Apprehensive*?

Here in these two Scriptures, Jesus tells two very similar parables both demonstrating God’s willingness to help us. The point of the parables is not to compare God to an unwilling friend or unjust judge, but to contrast Him with them. If even an unjust judge would grant a request because of persistent asking, won’t God, a loving judge and our Heavenly Father give us what we need?

So let’s take a look at Our **Access to the Lord** in Prayer allows us to then have an **audacious faith** that the Lord can do anything, use anyone, to see His glory shine & a lost and a hurting world brought to salvation!

We Must See the Priority of Prayer Vs 1

✓ **It is Critical** – **ILLUS:** Far too often we treat prayer like we do an instruction book at Christmas – “Now that you’ve made a mess of things, please start over and follow these instructions on set of instructions had written at the end.

We say, When all else fails, pray! It was never meant to be this way! It must be the first thing that we do and not the last! If Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, had to depend on prayer during "the days of His flesh", then how much more do you and I need to pray! Effective prayer is the provision for every need and the solution for every problem. *Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 9:28-29; 11:1; Mark 1:35*

✓ **It Must Be Constant and Consistent**

It must be a part of our daily lives! Focused times of prayer and then throughout the day as we pray in spurts, moments of prayers.

Philippians 4:2; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Again one of our Vision 2020 statements is that we would be a people of prayer and prayer would be normal common place thing around here! **Still have a hope & dream that someone will organize a prayer ministry and have people praying before and even during our Services for the Lord to move in amazing ways!**

✓ **It is Not For Us to Share Information With God** – like the ticker at the bottom of a news channel or a sports channel – like we need to catch God up on what He missed! God already knows it all!

✓ **It Is Not For Us to Try & Change God’s Mind** – to get the Lord on our agenda and get Him to do what we want Him to do – as if we can treat Him like some cosmic genie that we only come to when we need or want something.

✓ **It Is For Us to Share With the Lord and Listen to the Lord**

The Lord desires to commune with us, to have that relationship with Him and share what is on our hearts and most importantly and we miss this far too often to be still and know that He is God and listen. The Lord desires to speak to us, most of the time we are busy talking to hear that still small voice! He already knows our hearts, but He invites us to share with Him anyway!

✓ **It Is For Us to Intercede For Others** - Intercession has to do with believing on behalf of somebody else. We stand between God’s great willingness and their great need and our faith becomes the bridge that connects the two.”

- ✓ **It is How the Lord Has Ordained His work to Be Accomplished – James 5:16** The Lord already knows the end, but the means which He uses to get to that end is me and you and our prayers. Our prayers are important and it's not that we change God's mind for that is always set – but He uses our prayer in His plans and it appears that things were headed one way, when the Lord then responds to the prayers of His people because again over and over again in Scripture He invites us to come to Him, to pray to Him, to seek Him with all our hearts!

We Have the Pattern for Praying – A Model Vs 2-4

We don't have a lot of time to spend here, but the disciples came to Jesus and after watching and hearing Jesus pray, they realized that they were missing something – John's disciples seemed to know how, and obviously Jesus was willing, but they hadn't asked. When they do, He gives them a model, not the exact prayer to pray, but a way to pray – a guide if you will on how we might pray.

- ✓ **The Person & The Place - Our Father Who Art in Heaven**
- ✓ **The Praise – Hallowed Be Thy Name**
- ✓ **The Purpose – Thy Kingdom Come, They Will Be Done..**
- ✓ **The Provision – Give Us This Day our Daily Bread**
- ✓ **The Pardon – And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors**
- ✓ **The Protection – And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**

We Are to Be Persistent in Our Praying Vs 5-11; 8:1-8

Persistent – Shamelessness, Audacity, or Boldness.

We are to be like the friend banging on the door at night or the woman who doesn't let the judge rest until she knows He will answer her! We give up far too often and quit far too soon when we think the Lord isn't answering us! Not that pestering God enough that He will answer, but instead being persistent enough that we show and demonstrate our desperation and our deep desire and even our faith for it to come to pass!

[Matthew 7:7-8](#); [Jeremiah 29:12-13](#); [Hebrews 4:16](#); [James 4:2](#)

We Are To Keep Asking, Seeking, and Knocking

We see how this really translates – the idea that we start with asking, then we seek, and then we go the distance and we knock. A level of intensity that builds to the knocking on the door!

ILLUS: Kind of like going on that 1st date – we ask the person, we then have to seek them out, where do you live, and then we then have to go and actually knock on the door. If they don't answer the first time, we don't walk away (unless it's a cold call evangelism call!), we wait, and then we knock again. Then we might go back and ask and seek again. We surely don't just leave it there!

If only you will ask the Father, then your request will be given to you

If only you will seek the Father's will, then you will find it

If only you will knock, then the Father will open to door to your request.

It's a matter of our heart and are we asking, seeking, and knocking on the Lord's agenda and His call for our lives?

We Are to Believe the Promise in Our Praying Vs 12-13

✓ **God Loves to Give** - Our Father Loves to Give

God gives generously and not grudgingly He is not a reluctant Giver but a ready Giver. He is nothing like this judge or the reluctant friend – He is far more ready, able, and willing to give us what we need!

Our Father is the giver of every good and perfect gift Philippians 3:17 reminds us (*Moms and Dads – we read that in our God times last week by the way – can I urge you to be worshiping and leading your kids and reinforcing what they are learning on Sunday mornings during UpStreet!*)

The problem most of the time is that we simply aren't asking or we don't believe in faith that it will happen or we are too lazy and apathetic to ask unless we are desperate and it's the last resort! The Lord is waiting to give!

✓ **God Uses Our Prayers** – They Make a Difference both in the lives of people we are praying for and most of all in our own lives.

We Have to Believe – As we have been reading in the Gospels, and even particularly in Luke this week, one of the things we can't help but notice is how Jesus can hardly turn away from someone in need. The slightest brush of His clothing, in faith, released a torrent of power, almost as if it were a reflex ([Luke 8:43-48](#)). Do we really

think He has changed? Those who recognized that Jesus' "table of grace" was overflowing received the things for which they were asking ([Mark 7:24-30](#)). What keeps God from working in our world is not His unwillingness, but our unbelief.

"The most tragic verse in the Bible to me is [Matthew 13:58](#): 'He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.' Oh dear Petal FBC, may that never be said about us!! Here's a group of people who missed the power of God not because He was unwilling, but because there was nobody there to believe."

Think about situations God has placed you in where they can lay hold of God's compassion and power and thereby release it into the situation. What lost community, or unreached people group, is separated from God's power today simply because there is simply no one there to believe God for them? Is there someone God is calling to go and believe on behalf of that group? The S.S. people group and even those right here in Petal!

- ✓ **God Always Answers our Prayers** – Yes, No, Not Now – Wait
We don't always like to hear this – it's not like Garth Brooks song "Unanswered Prayer" – God answers all our prayers, just not like the way we always wants them! We like the yes, but not the no's and we sure don't like the not now's either!
- ✓ **God Always Gives Us What is Best & Always Does What Is Right**
[Daniel 3:17-19](#) They believed that God would answer because He wouldn't allow ole Nebuchadnezzar to steal His position. But in the event it didn't turn out that part of God's plan was saving them to see that happen that was ok with them! Elijah prayed the same prayer in [1 Kings 18:36-37](#)

We Have to Trust God When the Answer is Not What We Wanted, Hoped For, Prayed For, and even Believed For.

How do we that – we measure by His compassion on the Cross of Calvary and by His power demonstrated through the resurrection! even when God doesn't answer our prayers like we would like Him to, we don't have to doubt His love or His power. Those things

should be established in our eyes by the cross and resurrection. So why doesn't God always heal when we ask?

Remember in [Hebrews 11:33-35 vs 35-37](#) then [Verse 39](#) At the end of the day, God's power it is not primarily about victory over your particular situation but it's about the glory of His name on earth!

Sometimes that in letting us overcome that obstacle in a miraculous but in others He does it by letting us suffer to show a watching and waiting world that Jesus is better than anything else on this earth and that He is enough!

Boy I have walked this road and many of you have too. NO doubt God is glorified when sick people get well, but He's also glorified when sick people die well!

ILLUS: Parents we often deny the requests of our children because we love them. If my children asked me for a scorpion, I wouldn't give it to them. **Tim Keller** points out that **God sometimes answers our prayers by giving us what we would have asked for had we known what He knows. Faith trusts that**