

Seeking the Gift of the Holy Spirit Through Audacious Prayer

“Every now and again we must be reminded that the Lord’s Prayer begins with ‘Our Father’ and not ‘Our needs.’ Prayer involves *access to the presence of God, first and foremost.*” (Greg Harrick)

God-Honoring Prayer Audaciously Seeks Divine Resources for the Glory of God (v2)

i. God-honoring prayer is audacious

1. Luke 11:5-13 – “shameless and unconcerned for convention”
2. BAGD – “lack of sensitivity to what is proper, carelessness about the good opinion of others”
3. From the word meaning “no respect” or “no modesty”
4. God wants us to shamelessly call out to him in the midnight of our lives, when there are those who need our help and we have no resources left to feed them.

ii. This is missional prayer, when we are at the end of our rope of giving, and we feel like we cannot do this alone...we need help. We don’t have the resources that we need, we’re running on empty. God wants us to be audaciously unconcerned about convention and to ask for all the divine resources that we need *to see Him hallowed.*

1. Prayer is not quaint and tidy, pious or technical. God-honoring prayer is raw, authentic, cries of utter helplessness and shameless pounding on God’s door. It’s being unconcerned about formality and gaining the good opinion of others. It is simply to ask for his help to build His Kingdom, to live His calling, to be His witnesses, to forgive others, to escape temptation, and to see His great renown until He gives you the divine resources to feed the spiritually poor and walk to the front lines again.

- a. This story comes right after Jesus’ teaching on prayer (The Lord’s Prayer) and there are three basics asked for in that prayer:
 - i. That God would be honored and bring His kingdom
 - ii. Forgiveness of sins and the strength to forgive others
 - iii. Protection from temptation
- b. If you’re a new believer and a little intimidated by praying, know that God cares not for convention and appropriate behavior or formal pious words in prayer. He wants you to **SEEK HIM** and to ask Him for the divine resources to glorify Him by serving others. Don’t worry about how you appear, knock on the door at midnight!
- c. If you’ve been a believer for a long time, don’t be afraid of what people think of you as you seek the Lord. To a degree, don’t be afraid that you’re bothering God by asking for the same things over and over. He wants you to passionately seek Him for the power to live missionally, that is for His glory!!
 - i. Drop your pride and become shameless in your praying
 - ii. Stop trying to sound religious by using pious jargon and technical terms (What does ‘lifting up’ really mean?)
 - iii. Get to the heart and simply ask, with transparency and no concern for the appearance of formality, for the divine resources that you need to glorify God and reveal the mystery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask such things for others, too.

2. A neighbor gives in to this audacious shameless asking because they are displeased, but God, in the strange and mysterious ways of God, gives us the resources we need because He is pleased with our shameless helpless knocking on His door.
3. In these prayers, we do not ask for our mere comforts or concern with our own welfare (Jam 4:3), but are asking for bread for the hungry travelers who have come to our door in the middle of the night. These are prayers for the resources to meet the needs of others and are according to the will of God, for He has stated His desires in His word.
 - a. When we feel that we cannot live missionally, we are shamelessly and audaciously bang on God’s door until we get what we need to live missionally.

- b. When we feel that we cannot love our enemies, knock on God's door and it will be opened to you!
- c. When we feel that we cannot forgive those who have hurt us, seek Him and you will find Him!
- d. When we know we need wisdom (Jam 1:5), ask and it will be given to you!
- g. Sometimes it seems as if God is not there in the silence of the unanswered prayer. It seems as if God is not bringing about His Kingdom, that our missional desires are falling miserably short of effective. Remember that Jesus won His greatest victory in the silence of a tomb.

Piper quote on pp. 65-66

God-Honoring Prayer Audaciously Seeks the Divine Resource: the Holy Spirit (v13)

- i. In these prayers, our overarching request is for the gift of the Holy Spirit (v13)
- ii. Here is the amazing paradox: we who have the Spirit of God within us must constantly and shamelessly seek the Spirit.
 - Andrew Murray: "The Father can bestow no higher or more wonderful gift than this: His own Holy Spirit, the Spirit of sonship. This truth naturally suggests the thought that this first and chief gift of God must be the first and chief object of all prayer. For every need of the spiritual life this is the one thing needful: the Holy Spirit...If we but yield ourselves entirely to the disposal of the Spirit, and let Him have His way with us, He will manifest the life of Christ within us."
 - Jack Miller: "Without this heavenly anointing, there is only an earthly work. Our words have no power unless the Spirit speaks through us, and they have no effect unless the Spirit applies them to man's heart."
- iii. All of our spiritual growth and our missional effectiveness is due to the work of the Holy Spirit of God
 - a. Inward Transformation – fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5)
 - b. Missional Effectiveness – illumination of the Spirit (2 Cor 3:15-18)
 - c. The Glory of God through prayer and the Spirit– Philippians 1:18-20