

Pastor Jim Lloyd

Date: March 12, 2023

Title: HOW TO PRAY WHEN YOUR PRAYER IS YET UNANSWERED

Text: Luke 11:1, 6-10; 18:1-8

The last couple of weeks we have been sharing about Revival. Last week we shared that you can pray and NOT have revival, but you'll never have revival without praying. So, this morning we are going to examine a couple portions of scripture in Luke that speak to us of prayer.

How healthy or robust is your prayer life? Many a believer's prayer life leaves much to be desired. Theologian D.A. Carson says that if you really want to embarrass the average Christian, just ask them to tell you about their private prayer lives. Many may be able to impress others with their Bible knowledge or their evangelism stories, but one's private prayer times might make them hang their head. What's scary about this is that Jesus told us that *"Apart from Me you can do nothing!"*, AND... The main way we access His power is THROUGH PRAYER. In Luke chapter 11, Luke goes out of his way to show us that EVEN THE SOURCE OF JESUS' POWER WAS PRAYER. Jesus had declared in John 5:19, *"...the Son can do nothing by himself, he can only do what he sees his father doing..."* That meant that Jesus' ministry was not of his own initiative, but He depended on the power of the Father in Him and through Him. That was a power He accessed through prayer.

Luke shows us that Jesus' whole life was saturated with prayer. He shows Jesus praying at His baptism (Luke 3:21). In chapter 4 – praying through His temptation. In 5:15-16, he tells us that Jesus often got off alone to pray. In 6:12 he reveals that before Jesus chose His disciples, He spent the night praying. In 9:18, before he presented the disciples with the do-or-die question, *"Who do you say that I am"*, He spent the afternoon in prayer. After they made their declaration, putting their lives at risk, Luke tells us that He took them up on a mountain to spend time in prayer (9:28-29). In chapter 11, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. After all of the sermons that they had heard and all the miracles that they had seen, they didn't say, "Teach us to preach" OR... "Teach us to do miracles." Rather they said, *"Teach us to pray."* They recognized it was the key to everything. In 18:1, Luke tells us that Jesus taught His disciples ALWAYS to pray. In 22:32, Jesus promises Peter He'll pray for him during his hour of trial. In 22:40, Jesus commands His disciples to pray so they will not fall into temptation; AND... In 23:46, Luke shows us that Jesus' last breath at the hour of his death was a prayer. The point Luke seems to be making is this: If Jesus – God in the flesh – felt like He could do nothing on His own, and so was driven always to pray, WHY would we ever give thought that we can go through our lives with so little prayer? Are we foolish enough to think ourselves more capable than Jesus?

In Luke's second book, the book of ACTS, Luke demonstrates that prayer was the FOUNDATION of the early church's ministry, and the secret behind all their growth: Acts 1:14 – they all joined together constantly in prayer; 2:42 – they devoted themselves to prayer; 4:24 – they prayed for an outpouring of signs and wonders in persecution; Acts 6 says the Apostles devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. BOTH the MINISTRY OF THE WORD & PRAYER were considered ministries of the church. It wasn't that preaching was the real ministry and prayer was only done in preparation for ministry. Acts 9:40 – Peter prayed for the sick. In 12:5 – the church prayed for Peter to be released. In 13:2 – they are praying when God raised up missionaries. In 14:23 – they appointed elders through prayer. In 16:25 – Paul and Silas pray in prison. Luke concludes the book of Acts by describing Paul's ministry as preaching, healing, and praying.

Literally, you can find the early church in prayer in EVERY SINGLE CHAPTER of the book of Acts. It was fundamental to what they did. Here's the concern: What was FUNDAMENTAL for the early church has become SUPPLEMENTAL or INCIDENTAL to many a church today. We look at prayer as something we do on the way to ministry. The Early Church looked at it AS MINISTRY, AND... It shows! Acts 2 – they pray for 10 days and 3,000 people get saved. What we find in Acts is that it is more important to talk to God about people than people about God. It's NEVER prayer OR evangelism. What is being said is that you'll always be the BETTER evangelist AFTER prayer.

So, WHY do we find it so difficult to pray? Most of us would point to a problem with our self-discipline. We don't pray enough for the same reason we don't work out – it's a lack of self-discipline. Let me put forward a DIFFERENT reason some don't pray. It's painfully honest, but I suspect most would agree. There are those, perhaps many, who are just NOT SURE HOW MUCH GOOD PRAYER DOES. Nobody wants to admit this in church, but see, sometimes you pray and THINGS HAPPEN; But... Sometimes you pray and NOTHING seems to happen, AND... Sometimes you DON'T pray and the thing you FORGOT to pray for HAPPENS ANYWAY. This is why some struggle with praying. So, it's encouraging to me that in Luke 11 a disciple asked Jesus to teach them to pray (*"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray'"* - Luke 11:1). After giving them some initial instructions about how to approach God, Jesus tells a story that deals with our primary obstacle to praying: UNANSWERED PRAYER. For some, this is the reason they quit praying or hardly pray; it may even be the reason they gave up on church and God altogether – they prayed a prayer that they thought surely any loving God would answer, AND... Things didn't happen like they thought they should, AND... They can't make sense of it. Jesus was aware of such frustration. He recognized it as a primary obstacle to praying effectively. Good News: That means there's not something wrong with you! Let that settle in. Your doubt doesn't mean you are a strange, evil, unbelieving person – or not cut out to be a Christian. This is a natural question, and Jesus recognized this would be a big hang-up with prayer so He tells a story to address it: Luke 11:5-11 – ⁵*"And he said to them, 'Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him;'"* Unfortunately, in first century Palestine there were no 24-hour grocery stores to go to; no late-night Taco Bells. AND... In the 1st century, HOSPITALITY was a big deal. So, it is quite reasonable that this guy doesn't really want to send his midnight guests away hungry. Verse 7 – *"and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything.'"* Here are a few other details to help us make sense of this story. First, in a country and time without electricity, "midnight" is really the middle of the night. For some of us, midnight might be 3 hours before bedtime. People of that day typically went to bed AT SUNDOWN, so by midnight this guy has been asleep or at least in bed for about 4 hours. This guy is likely into REM or deep sleep. Then, notice, that he is in bed WITH HIS CHILDREN. In those days, people lived in one-room houses. There was one big bed area, and everyone slept together. To get up to get bread, he's going to WAKE EVERYONE UP. Parents, I don't have to tell you how irritating it would have been to have finally gotten all 5 of your kids down in your one room apartment; and then all of a sudden, some dude starts banging on the door, "Hey, I need some bread." By the way, Jesus starts the conversation: "FRIEND, lend me 3 loaves." FRIEND is a good word for him to use, because when you are waking someone up at midnight, the whole friendship might be called into question. 3rd detail to notice: The man making the request here probably doesn't really have an emergency. It's not like, "My wife is dying...and I need to get her to a doctor!" It's more like, "Hey, I had some guests come and I don't have enough pop-tarts!" In addition, the request he puts forward is rather exorbitant. It is my understanding that in those days bread loaves were HUGE. ONE loaf should have been sufficient; but this guy asks for THREE! Verse 8 – *"I tell you, though he will NOT get up and give him anything BECAUSE HE IS HIS FRIEND, yet because of his IMPUDENCE (some translations say "boldness; shamelessness") he will rise and give him whatever he needs."* He gets his request – bread – NOT because the other guy loves him as a friend, but because of his BOLDNESS and PERSISTENCE in asking. Then Jesus says in verse 9 – *"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* The whole analogy of KNOCKING reinforces this idea of PERSISTENT asking, right? When you knock, you don't just walk up to the door and hit it once – especially if it looks like someone is home. You at least knock ONE more time. Diane and I had been at the church quite late on Friday evening. I had a funeral to finish preparing for. I was also putting together notes for this morning. We got to bed quite late. SO, early Saturday morning, Diane says, "Do you hear Alexa keep saying, 'There is motion at the doorbell?'" and the doorbell has rung." I said, "I didn't hear anything." No one answered the door the FIRST time. No one answered the SECOND time. If it wasn't for Diane, no one would have answered the door at all. Our brand-new neighbor was at the door and for the second time FEDEX delivered his package to 448 instead of to 438, AND our neighbor works for FEDEX. If it wasn't for his

persistence, no one would have answered the door. Jesus says, "Knock, and if no one comes to the door, KEEP KNOCKING!" So what if the lights are off. You know they are home. Let them know, it's no use – you are not going away. They might as well get up and answer. You say, "Well, how does this jive with the whole idea of God's sovereignty? If it was God's will to give the request, WHY NOT GIVE IT THE FIRST TIME WE ASK FOR IT?" I am not sure...BUT... The point is clear: God ONLY gives SOME things in response to ongoing, patient, persistent prayer. Or, you could say it this way: God delights to share His power with those who are bold enough to bother Him.

Now, really quick, flip over to Luke 18... Because I want to show you how Luke records this SAME ESSENTIAL TEACHING TWICE. Since this is such a common problem, and the answer he's giving us is so counterintuitive, it's hard to get your mind around it. Luke 18:1-5 – ¹*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.* ²*He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.* ³*And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'* ⁴*For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man,* ⁵*yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'*" Then Jesus says, unbelievably, "This is like praying to God." Let me tell you something about parables. When you listen to a parable, you are usually thinking, okay, SOMEBODY in this parable is GOD, AND... SOMEBODY in this parable is ME. (That's generally how parables work.) This one's a little confusing. The disciples are like – "Okay, which one is us? WE have to be the needy old widow, but... If WE are the WIDOW that would make God... the grumpy old judge AND... he doesn't really care AND he only gives this woman what she wants because she won't stop pestering him?" The point does seem rather straightforward: If you want something from God, you just keep banging on the door. Eventually He'll respond to you, not because He loves you, but... Because you just bothered Him to death. REALLY? IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO READ THIS? YES!!! Jesus' point is NOT to compare God to an unjust judge but to CONTRAST Him with one: He is saying, "Even if an unrighteous, selfish judge would grant answers because of persistent asking; AND Even IF a sleeping, stingy friend will eventually get up and give us our request, HOW MUCH MORE WILL OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who DOES love and care for us and constantly watches over us, give us what we need when we come persistently to Him and ask Him. Back to Luke. Through these two parables (Luke chapters 11 & 18), Jesus teaches us 4 important things about how we should pray especially when our prayers are delayed or go unanswered.

1. Pray DESPERATELY! Both of the characters in these stories seem desperate. Both are entirely out of options. The HUNGRY MAN has nowhere else to get bread. The WRONGED WOMAN has nowhere else to turn for justice. One of the things that keeps us FROM praying is our failure to recognize how utterly desperate we are for God's help. As Americans, we are the "CAN DO" people. We are a people who assume that with enough time and energy we can figure out the solution to anything. It's right there in our name. Amer - I - CAN. We aren't the Ameri-can'ts. We have Books for Dummies on every possible subject: *Religion for Dummies*, *Spirituality for Dummies*, EVEN *God for Dummies*. Our mindset is often - if we can just figure out the technique, we can become capable at whatever we need to be. We are a DO IT YOURSELF people, and that's good, BUT... It's deadly when you are dealing with a God who says, "*Apart from me you can do nothing.*" Paul Miller, who wrote a book called *The Praying Life* says, "If you are NOT praying, then you are quietly confident that TIME, MONEY, and TALENT are all you need in life. You'll always be a little TOO TIRED, a little TOO BUSY to pray. BUT... If, like Jesus, you realize you CAN'T do life on your own, then no matter how busy, no matter how tired you are, YOU WILL FIND THE TIME." I'm not here to shame anyone into coming to Prayer Meeting tonight, BUT... If your excuse for NOT coming is I'M TOO BUSY, you need to find a better excuse than that. I sure am glad that Jesus didn't use the "I'm TOO BUSY or I'm TOO TIRED to go the cross" excuse. I sure am glad for a mother that never used the I'M TOO TIRED or I'M TOO BUSY to pray for her kids. Yes, she was busy. I'm sure she was tired. She was always up before us, and... Went to bed AFTER us. BUT... Thank God, it never stopped her from praying for her kids. Parents - You can read every book that Amazon offers on parenting and it won't be enough. Learn every honorable technique, principle or formula for parenting and it won't be

enough. Elyse Fitzpatrick, author of a book entitled *Give Them Grace* points out that "God was a PERFECT FATHER and one third of the angels and the first two humans He created rebelled. So, you think you'll be able to out-perform God?" (She said) "The really dangerous problem with thinking there is a foolproof way of parenting is it keeps us from the one thing we most need; That is, to cast ourselves down at the feet of Jesus, looking to Him for His mercy in our kids' lives. To do what we can't do. We do our best parenting through prayer. You will likely do well to speak less to the kids and MORE to God." Elyse said that "Prayer is not just preparation for the ministry of parenting; prayer is the MOST IMPORTANT element of parenting." She pointed to this passage in 1 Peter 5:6-10, where Peter says, *"Humble yourself (in prayer), under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him for he cares for you."* Who does the exalting? God does. Hope in Him! Our hope for our kids should never rest on our parenting skill...even the skills we learned from the Bible. Our hope is in the grace of God, who will HIMSELF raise them up. My hope for my marriage is not in good Christian relationship techniques (as important as those are). Again, at the end of the day, my hope is in God's grace. Our hope for success in mission lies not in a superior strategy or our talent, but entirely in God's grace. No skill, not even biblical skill, is sufficient. *"Cursed is the man who trusts in man..."* Jesus didn't save us by teaching us principles but by giving us resurrection power. What a tragedy to master the principles and then forget about our relationship and dependency upon the God who gives them life. Our hope is in the mercy of God, who will HIMSELF lift us up and establish us. Know that it is not the quality of prayer that guarantees you kid's salvation. When we struggle sometimes our prayers are nothing more than vocalized unbelief. Read David's prayers in the Psalms. In one Psalm, he is on the mountaintop. In the next, the mountain is on him. I count on the fact that Jesus has promised to pray through me. My prayers are faulty. His prayers are perfect and complete. Our hope is in the mercy of God. If we get that, we WILL pray DESPERATELY. Prayer is more than discipline - it is about desperation. You can write out your prayers. You can sing your prayers. You can pray out loud. You say, "Pastor, I would feel weird." That's how Jesus prayed, so, GET OVER YOURSELF. The form is less important - Prayer at its core is a DESPERATE conversation with your Heavenly Father where you tell Him - all that you need, all that you're afraid of, all you are worried about, all you can't handle, BECAUSE... You know how much you need Him.

2. Pray BOLDLY. The two people in Jesus' parables come with extravagant, BIG requests, AND... Jesus says, "If this is how they came to a stingy friend and an unrighteous judge, HOW MUCH MORE BOLDLY should you come to your Heavenly Father?" As I noted, the two stories Jesus told are comedic for their hyperbole. He's NOT comparing God to a slumbering friend or an unjust judge, rather He is making CONTRASTS: 1. This woman - this WIDOW - approached the bench as a stranger; WE come as beloved children. SHE had no rights to claim in court; WE have the blood of Jesus by which we come boldly before the throne of grace. The judge WE approach is not one who doesn't care about justice or us. No, the Judge WE approach is a FATHER who cared so much about us that He climbed out of His Judge's chair and satisfied the demands of justice so He could share with us the riches of His kingdom. 2. The friend WE approach is NOT asleep - NO! He's so attentive to us that He knows how many hairs are on our head and He knows when even a single sparrow falls from the sky. He did not just give us loaves of bread from His cupboard, He gave us the bread of his own torn flesh - the Bread of Life. When we understand this, we pray boldly. You know who approached me in bold fashion? My daughter. I heard a tapping on my bedroom door in the wee hours of the morning. Who else could get away with that? Only MY kid. I do what any good dad would do. I say, "Your mom is right on the other side of this bed." No, I get up. I think my daughter approached me with undaunted confidence in my goodness toward her. That's how God wants us to approach Him. We are like children who are welcome in their Daddy's bedroom at whatever hour of the night with whatever need we have. Look at how He presses that point in Luke 11:13 - Jesus says, *"If you, who are evil, love to give gifts to your children..."* I hope most of us are at our most loving when we are dealing with our kids. Yet compared to God's love for His children, even the best parent, on the best day, would be classified as "evil." Think of how tenderly you love your kids. Yet compared to God's love for His children, even that love for your kids is "evil" compared to His love for you. What would your prayers for others look like if you REALLY believed God had that kind of love for you and for the world?

You'd PRAY BOLDLY. You'd also...

3. Pray PERSISTENTLY. Jessica could wear me out asking for something repeatedly. For her it seemed as if "No" wasn't an answer. "NO" was an invitation to an extended amount of negotiation. Ask long enough and dad might crumble. That's how she got her first car. During her college days, she had been asking for and looking at cars. One day she said to me - "Oh, I did bad on my test today." I think it was Organic Chemistry. I said, "That's a shame. I was going to buy you a car if you got an A." She did a lot better than she thought. She got an A+! She got her car. Way back, I met a young girl at Potomac Park. I wanted to borrow dad's car to go and see her. The only problem was - Dad said, "No!" I begged and pleaded. Over and over, he said, "No, it's not going to happen." In my frustration, I said, "What if God tells you to let me have the car." Then he reluctantly said, "If God tells me. But He's not going to tell me." That gave me the little hope I needed. I was sure God was telling him to let me use the car, but dad wasn't hearing it. At least that is what he told me. So, I thought I would help God speak to dad and help dad hear. I got my cassette tape recorder. I got the longest blank tape I could find - 120 minutes - 60 on each side. I fast forwarded to close to the end of side one and in the deepest voice I could muster, I recorded, "Let Jim have the car to go to Baltimore." Before dad went to bed that night, I slipped the cassette player under his bed and hit the play button knowing that after about 55 minutes of silence, dad would hear - "Let Jim use the car to go to Baltimore." To make a long story short, I got to use the car, BUT... I came this close to seeing Jesus early. Persistence paid off, BUT... In these parables, Jesus makes clear that the reason God answers these requests is because of the persistence of the one asking. Several of Jesus' parables about prayer were about adults acting like children - 11:8 "*Because of his impudence;*" 18:5 because of her "*continual coming,*" the answer was given. Many other Scriptures demonstrate the same. Acts 11 tells us that the church prayed ALL NIGHT for the release of Peter - they prayed until HE GOT OUT. In Exodus 17:12-13...where when Moses' hands were UP, the Israelites were winning. When Moses' hands were down, they were losing. Very graphic picture. The point is clear: If God's not answering, KEEP PRAYING! I know, some of you want to point out the exceptions. You say, "One time I prayed and prayed for this, and I never got it." I get that. Jesus gets that. John 11 - Mary and Martha prayed for their brother Lazarus not to die and Jesus told them that God let him die because HE HAD A GREATER PLAN. So, Jesus was aware of the exceptions. BUT... Here, in Luke 11, he tells His disciples: "Look, you asked me how to pray; so, I'm telling you how to pray. Don't let go. Don't stop praying." You say, "Why does God work that way? Why not give it the first time we ask?" I don't rightly know, but that's clearly what He's teaching. AND... I have a guess - God is glorified through our persistent boldness, AND... If we got every request at one asking, most would pray very little, and we'd have a really distorted view of God. These people in Jesus' parable have one absolute conviction: GOD has the power to help them. God is the ONLY ONE who can help them. So, there is NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. When you pray and refuse to give up, that declaration of confidence in God's goodness glorifies Him, and many times He gives the answer because of your persistence. If you're praying and praying and don't have an answer yet, DON'T GIVE UP! Many of us have seen faithful men and women of faith hang on and pray about things that seemed impossible, and at the last minute or years later, something happens. There are times when God responds to those "I'm just not going to give up; I'm going to ask and seek and knock and ask and seek and knock and ask and seek and knock until You answer, and the answer is 'Yes!'" prayers. ILLUSTRATION: George Mueller, who wrote one of the most influential books on prayer, tells a story about committing to pray for the salvation of 5 young men, every single day. He prayed for 18 months before the first one was converted. He said, "I thanked God, and pressed on." He prayed every day for 5 more years before the second one was converted, AND... another 6 years before the third. What's that - 12-1/2 years for the salvation of 3. 36 years later, he wrote that the last two were still not converted, "but I hope in God, I pray on, and look for the answer. They are not converted yet, but they will be." Then, in 1897, 52 years after he started praying, the final two were brought to faith. A year later, Mueller died. Luke 18:1 - "*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and NOT LOSE HEART...*" You have a brother, or father, or daughter, or roommate, that hasn't become a believer. Don't give up! NEVER put a PERIOD where God puts a COMMA. Finally, Jesus teaches us that we should...

4. Pray TRUSTINGLY. After the parable in Luke 11, Jesus acknowledges that there are indeed sometimes that we don't receive the answers we think we should have. That's NOT because God doesn't love us AND... It is NOT because God isn't listening, BUT... It is because HE HAS A GREATER PLAN. Here's how Jesus explains it: Luke 11:11 - *"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"* Yes or No - Parents: If your kid asks for something detrimental to his well-being, are you going to say, "Hold out your hand." No, you strive to ONLY give GOOD GIFTS. Same with God. To put it another way - If your child asks you for a scorpion, will you give them a scorpion? No! Think of the cross. If there were ever anything that looked like a scorpion (something to stay away from) it was the cross. BUT... THAT was the moment of our salvation! Here's something to hold onto in times of unanswered prayer: Sometimes God answers our prayers by giving us what we WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR IF WE KNEW THAT HE KNEW. I know that doesn't answer all your questions. Mine either. What I DO KNOW is that you have a Heavenly Father you can ALWAYS TRUST. Psalm 84:11 declares, *"NO GOOD THING will he withhold from those who walk uprightly."* NO GOOD THING! That is provisional. What are the provisions? If we PRAY. If we walk UPRIGHTLY. He proved that by dying for you on the cross. That shows you that whatever is happening in your life, it's not because He stopped loving you or forgot you. The cross is His eternal pledge that He's always working for your good. Sometimes, God delays because it is SOMETHING IN US THAT GOD WANTS TO CHANGE. There are stories of parents who prayed for wayward children, and after months/years they have said, "We realized we were the ones whose hearts needed to be changed. No wonder he left. No wonder she left." AND... It was in prayer and grappling with God, saying, "God, why won't you hear us? Why won't you change his heart?" that God revealed to them that THEY needed to change. Perhaps that may be what God is doing. I don't know. But at the end of the day, the key word we say in our prayer, the word Jesus taught us to open our prayers with, is FATHER. My daughter in her 34 years of living has asked me for lots of things: Some things I give, some things I don't. But I am ALWAYS working for her good. Even more so with God. How much more our Heavenly Father is ALWAYS working for our good. So, commit to pray: Desperately, Boldly, Persistently, and Trustingly. I hold that God wants to do greater things through this church. I'm amazed by all the growth in this area. The potential is incredible. God did not call us simply to manage a respectable church. HE COMMANDED US TO CHARGE THE GATES OF HELL! The Lord would have us cast our nets wide so that we'll take in so many fish the nets break.

CONCLUSION. So, let me close by asking: What about YOU? How's YOUR prayer life? WHAT are your prayers ABOUT? Do you pray those trite, housekeeping prayers? "God, help with the job and help me with this quiz and give us traveling mercies and just be with us and I pray that in Jesus' name, Amen." OR... Are you praying BIG things for God's kingdom, things in line with Jesus' love for this old world? What are you so passionate about for God's kingdom that you refuse to quit praying about it until heaven is moved? If you're not praying this way - if all you are doing is praying trite prayers out of discipline rather than bold prayers from desperation, I contend that - You're missing out on an opportunity to see God do something great in this world, AND... You are missing out on an opportunity to see God do something great in YOU! Please bow your heads. Which of these do you struggle with most? Have you forgotten how DESPERATE you are? Are you not BOLD or confident in God's love toward you? NEVER forget the cross. *"Greater love hath no man than this that He lay down His life for a friend."* Does He love you? YES! Does He want what is best for you? YES! He gave His life for you! Have you given up and stopped praying? You need to PERSIST! Are you just NOT TRUSTING your Heavenly Father? Confess that to God and ask for His help. How about this... What do you need to take NOW - boldly and persistently - before God's throne? TODAY we can declare OUR TRUST IN OUR FATHER - the Giver of every good & perfect gift. Let's get DESPERATE. Let's be BOLD. Come boldly to His throne. Let's persist AND... Let's TRUST.