

The Texture of Answered Prayer

- I. **What does texture mean?**
 - A. When we get a glimpse of a spectacular view or a beautiful picture, or we see beautiful clothing, or a lovely garden, we want to experience it more. Similarly, there is a “feel” to answered prayer that makes us want more. (Example of children touching things with one finger.)
 - B. Prayer is a beautiful concept that is very relational. In fact, it is one of the main ways we come to know God and walk with Him. There is a texture to it—not just information but understanding through repeated experience and walking with God.
 - C. We learn to walk with God, and Jesus says, “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:14). At stake is the honor and glorification of the Father (John 14:13).

- II. **Luke 11 and Luke 18 are very helpful in understanding some of the nuances of answered prayer.**
 - A. Notice that the Lord’s prayer starts with “Our Father,” a very novel concept for religions around the world (Luke 11:2). (Example of Bilquis Sheik, [I Dared to Call Him Father](#))
 - B. Luke 11:5-13 teaches about the “shameless audacity” of prayer (Verse 8). (Example of friend at midnight who asks, seeks, and knocks—getting God’s attention)
 - C. Prayer is like fishing—bait the hook (ask); throw out the line (seek); get the fish into the boat (knock).
 - D. Prayer is like taking a journey with God. If you take enough journeys and experience answered prayer, you get the feel of how God works (the texture). (Examples of some of our prayer journeys with God)
 1. The Greek behind ask, seek, and knock indicates continuous action. Our persistence is part of the texture of prayer.
 2. The persistence of asking, seeking, and knocking is so powerful. It has everything to do with the state of the Church in the End Times (Luke 18:1-8).

- III. **Prayer is not simply something we do with our mouths; it is also listening (getting a sense of what God likes and wants) and taking an action of faith (risk).**
 - A. Jesus seems to like this kind of lifestyle (example of Peter in the boat, Matthew 14:25-33; and the example of multiplying the loaves, Mark 6:35-44).
 - B. Examples of prayer journeys we have taken as a church

- IV. **The power of living in testimony (“Do it again, Lord”)**
 - A. Tracking your answered prayers and the answered prayers of other people’s lives prepares the way for the next miracle you need (Matthew 16:5-12)
 - B. As the texture of your prayers begins to change, you start to believe that even things that you thought were dead can breathe in life again (Ephesians 3:20,21).
 - C. Also, the peace and confidence in your heart begins to grow.

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