



SOUTHBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Conversations with God” Part IV

Sunday, May 4, 2008

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Review 3 Foundations:

1. There is potential in prayer that I have yet to experience.
2. The idea of a “back and forth” conversation with God is both exciting and challenging to me.
3. Past difficulties or lack of experience does NOT limit my potential in prayer.

Luke 11:1-10 (NLT)

Once when Jesus had been out praying, one of his disciples came to him as he finished and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." 2 He said, "This is how you should pray: "Father, may your name be honored. May your Kingdom come soon. 3 Give us our food day by day. 4 And forgive us our sins — just as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And don't let us yield to temptation." 5 Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this illustration: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You would say to him, 6 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' 7 He would call out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and we are all in bed. I can't help you this time.' 8 But I tell you this — though he won't do it as a friend, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you what you want so his reputation won't be damaged. 9 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.

Question: Why is it that there are times when I am very confident I am praying God's will and yet it seems to go the _____?
_____?

Phase #4: Sometimes It's Difficult

1. There will always be more to _____!

v.5 Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this illustration: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You would say to him..."

*** Jesus is explaining . . .**

- The Lord's Prayer is not the “end _____”.
- I know you will face times when prayer seems to not be _____.

2. Although there are many prayer mysteries, one thing is clear = There is a “_____ factor”.

v. 8 “But I tell you this — though he won't do it as a friend, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you what you want so his reputation won't be damaged.”

**** The moral of this story is almost too simple.**

= If your prayers are in line with God's will, KEEP _____ ON THE _____!!

3. Is there still a “window of _____”?

v.9 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.”

*** Great Principle: As long as there is an opportunity for a miracle, prayer is the right _____!**

Personal Action Steps

- How do I respond when I face what “appears” to be unanswered prayer?
- Who in my life do I trust to link arms with me in prayer?
- Decision = “I need to begin or begin again praying for _____.”