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Accelerate: Episode 5

Prayer—Speaking The Language Of Heaven

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Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”² He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come.³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your **shameless audacity** he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. ⁹“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.¹¹“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for¹¹ a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”**

The disciples realize that there is a massive connection between the dynamism of Jesus’ life and His prayers.

“Prayer is transparent dialogue with God.”
- Greg Ogden

What is prayer?

- Prayer is asking in a setting of gratitude, thanksgiving and prayer.
- Prayer is listening.
- Prayer is awareness.
- Prayer is perseverance.

What prayer is not?

- Prayer is not about stuff, it is about relationship.
- Prayer is not required.
- Prayer is not manipulation.

Vs. 1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.

- Prayer is habitual.
 - The secret of prayer is praying.

Jesus is daring you to pray ridiculous prayers with shameless audacity.

- **Vs. 8** *I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your **shameless audacity** he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.*
 - The job of the one praying is prayer creation, it is God's job to edit and distribute as He sees fit.

Jesus is offering more than you are asking for.

- **Vs. 13** *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*
 - In the giving of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is suggesting access to unlimited power and potential.

Challenge: This week, reboot your prayer life, finding your own "certain place".

Food for the journey: Use these questions to go deeper in personal study or in one of our community groups.

1. For Jesus, prayer was habitual. How can we make prayer a habit in our own life?
2. What do you see as key characteristics of the "Our Father Prayer"? How can you incorporate them into your personal time of prayer?
3. Jesus, through a parable, tells his disciples that they should use shameless audacity in prayer. Why would Jesus go there?
4. Jesus says that when you ask in prayer you will be given the Holy Spirit. How would having more access to the Holy Spirit change the way you live?
5. This week find a certain place and pray. Then make a list of how you see your prayers manifest themselves in your daily life. #Awareness