

Luke 11:1-13

T4C West Youth

8/16/2013

Elements Of An
Effective Prayer Life



Let me begin by saying the Bible repeatedly teaches us the astonishing wonder of prayer. Abraham's servant prayed and Rebecca appeared. Jacob prayed and prevailed and Esau's mind was turned after twenty years of vengeance. Moses prayed and Amalek was struck. Hannah prayed and Samuel was born. David prayed and Ahithophel, his enemy, was defeated. Asa prayed and victory was gained. Jehoshaphat prayed and God turned away his enemies. Isaiah and Hezekiah prayed and a hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrians were dead in twelve hours. Daniel prayed and lions were muzzled. Daniel prayed again and the prophecy of the rest of history down to Messiah was given to him in the seventy weeks prophecy. Mordecai and Ester prayed and Haman who wanted to destroy the Jews was hanged on his own gallows in a mere three days. Nehemiah prayed and the king's heart was softened in a moment. Elijah prayed and a three-year drought came, he prayed again and it rained. Elisha prayed and a child's soul came back to life. Believers prayed and Peter was released from prison and appeared at the door, and so it goes, the chronicle of the wonder of prayer all through Scripture and even until now.

We are familiar with prayer, we understand that God hears and answers prayer. We know the Bible says you have not because you ask not. It says pray without ceasing, pray at all times, in everything by prayer and supplication let your request be known to God. We understand all of that. But there's so much more to understand. Most people focus on how prayer works, not on what its purpose is. In fact, one person said that praying for most people is like sailors pumping

because the ship leaks. Prayer is sort of a crisis operation, a sort of a last ditch approach. That's so wrong. And I think most people assume that prayer, and they're even taught this, that prayer is primarily for us. It's our way to cash in. It's our way to activate God. It's our way to get what we want. It's our way to put God in a place where He fulfills our desires, longings, dreams and ambitions. Of course that's wrong as well. Prayer is not for us, it is primarily for God. It is not for us to get what we want, it is for Him to display His glory through meeting our needs. That is what is so exciting about prayer. God, who created the universe and can command anything to happen at any time chooses to glorify himself through answering our prayer by meeting our needs.

I want to look at tonight the topic of:

“Elements Of An Effective Prayer Life.”

Have you ever felt your prayers were not effective?

Turn to Luke chapter 11

- I. Element # 1 – Acknowledgement of God
_____ - This is
Personal. **Romans 8:12-17**

- II. Element # 2 – Acknowledgement of
God's _____ - His presence.
Psalms 115:1-3

- III. Element # 3 – Acknowledgement of
God's _____ - His power.
Philippians 2:10