



**Sermon Series:** Owning a Faith that Matters

**To be used with Session 4: Praying Faith**

**Sermon Title Possibilities: Foundations to Faith**

**Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study “Praying Faith” this sermon will examine how Jesus taught His disciples to pray and how that relates to us as disciples today. Jesus is not merely giving his followers a script to repeat, but instead a template to lead us to seek the heart of God. It’s ironic that we enter a relationship with Jesus through surrender. We feel the conviction of our sin and we repent of that sin which in turn begins a relationship with the creator of the world. Over time the freshness wears off and we find ourselves tempted by worldly desires once again. Our constant return to prayer is the foundation of a growing faith and the key to unlocking God’s presence on earth as it is in heaven.

**Introduction:** Prayer is the ongoing conversation we begin with our Heavenly Father that builds, strengthens, and guides our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is the foundation by which all our efforts towards holiness begins. Prayerlessness is most often symptomatic to a life separated from the presence of God. A famous philosopher Fyodor Dostoevski says it this way, “Be not forgetful of prayer. Every time you pray, if your prayer is sincere there will be new feeling and new meaning in it, which will give you fresh courage, and you will understand that prayer is an education.” Much of prayer should be practicing being in the presence of God.

### **1. Foundations of Prayer builds Faith (Luke 11:1-4).**

The most important foundation for building faith is a healthy prayer life. God expects us to reverence His name and come as children. Spiritual vitality is much needed if we are to face all the responsibilities of following Christ commands. The Christian faith differs from most other religions because God expects dependency. We may have been taught by our culture to practice hyper individuality, pursue success, and celebrate your victories in the face of one another’s failures. However, God expects our weakness. And in our weakness, we find His strength. Romans 8:26-27 says, “In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.”<sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows

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the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”<sup>1</sup>  
Building the foundations of prayer prepares every Christian for a time where we need the discipline of daily prayer and petition to grow us in our faith.

## **2. Persistence in Prayer strengthens Faith + Luke 11:5-8**

A healthy persistence in prayer builds and strengthens our faith to prepare us for those times when we are tested and tried. We are all tempted in certain ways. According to author E. M. Bounds, prayer is the task and duty of each new day—daily prayer for daily needs. We need daily help from Christ. We need daily sustenance. Prayer causes our hearts to be transformed towards righteousness and away from sin. This is a lifelong process, so we need our daily times of prayer to ward against temptation. Our physical bodies need a considerable amount of water, nutrients, and exercise to operate at its maximum capacity. The same is true of our spiritual body. The spiritual man yearns to be in communion with our Heavenly Father. The more we strengthen our relationship the closer we become. Jesus gives an example of going to a friend and asking for bread at a late hour. The persistence in asking is what moves that friend. This should be our posture when communicating with our Heavenly Father.

## **3. The Holy Spirit in Prayer guides Faith + Luke 11:9-13**

Although Jesus gives His disciples a template on prayer. There are times when we must be guided in prayer through the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus teaches that if earthly fathers avoid giving evil gifts to their children, then how much more than a Heavenly Father. A Heavenly Father, creator of all mankind would be more advanced in understanding exactly what we need not just what we ask. The children of God more than petitions need the Jesus Christ himself. We cannot live without His presence. God’s children need the strength to fight temptation, find daily bread and forgive others of sins. Only the Holy Spirit empowered Christian can build this type of faith. There is a sense of reverence and humbleness that develops when we communicate with God. Faith begins to grow and as it grows, we discover more of our need of God.

**Conclusion:** There is a story of a man whose friend was quite a lover of hunting. According to AC Dixon, “Rising early one morning,” he said, I heard the barking of several dogs chasing a deer. Looking at a large open field in front of me, I saw a young fawn making its way across the field and giving signs that its race was almost run. It leaped over the rails of the enclosed placed and crouched within ten feet of where I stood. A moment later two of the hounds came over, and the fawn ran in my direction and pushed its head between my legs. I lifted the little thing to my breast, and, swinging round and round, fought off the dogs. Just then I felt that all the dogs in the West could not and would not capture that fawn after its weakness had appealed to my strength.” So is it when human helplessness appeals to Almighty God. I remember well, when

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<sup>1</sup> [\*Christian Standard Bible\*](#) (Ro 8:26–27). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers.

the hounds of sin were after my soul, that is when at last I ran into the arms of Almighty God.” God is always available to grow our faith through prayer.

### **Author Bio**

Jason Thomas serves with International Mission Board (IMB) as African American Church Mobilization Strategist in Virginia. Previously, he served as the Ministry Director for college students with Louisiana Baptists. Jason has been married to his wife, Gaynel for 13 years and holds a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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