

Prestonwood Connection

#3 Tell Me The Stories Of Jesus

A Story About Friendship

Luke 11

February 1, 2006 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message, A Story About Friendship]

...turn to Luke chapter 11. We're studying together the parables of Jesus in our series that I'm calling *Tell Me The Stories Of Jesus*. But, before we read the story that I wanna read out of Luke 11 tonight I wanna tell you a story about something that happened to me, to my wife Connie a few years ago a..., several years ago now when we were living in South Florida. On a bright, beautiful Saturday morning we got up and went out and had a bit of breakfast together at a favorite little restaurant over on Palm Beach, beautiful little outdoor café's that they have there and a..., the day was just perfect. The sun was up, good breakfast, beautiful morning and we decided that because it was a Saturday morning that we were gonna take advantage of making some ministry contacts and I had a couple of a..., names and addresses of some people ~~in the chu...~~ in the car that had attended the church and so not too far from where we had breakfast we went to a home and we pulled up there on the curb out front of the house and got out of the car and we were walking together up the walkway arm in arm. The birds were singing, the sun was shining and as we made our way to the porch we got there and a..., we both sort of hit the porch at the same time, I stepped and Connie stepped and as we did we both sort of slid a little bit and then stepped on up on the porch and walked around and I turned to see what was wet and suddening I realized that somebody had just painted that step that we had just stepped on, white paint! To make matter worse, by the time that I slid and caught myself and stopped I turned around to realize that the surface of the porch had been covered with a green Astroturf and so not only was there paint that was now marked by a footprint, suddenly the porch where we were standing had about 8 or 9 little white footprints all over the porch and we were standing there together and I thought what in the world am I going to do? Well, I first thought was you haven't rung the doorbell yet. Heh, heh! [congregation laughter] So I thought, you know what, we can just go back to the car. But all I could think is about the time we get back to the car somebody'll see us from the house, recognize me as one of the pastors from the church and they'll immediately come out front, see what we did and think I can't believe they would do that. And so I knew that wasn't gonna work, so I had an even better idea. I rang the doorbell, the lady came to the door and I said "Hi, we're from 1st Presbretarian Church." Heh, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! [congregation laughter] No, I really didn't, but I sure thought about doin that. No, the lady came to the door, she opened the

door and smiled, I said, "Hi, my name's David McKinley, this is my wife Connie, we're from 1st Baptist Church." And I said, "I am so embarrassed, I have just ruined your porch." I said, "I can't believe that this happened, we were just coming over to try to tell you how glad we were that you came to visit with us and worship with us, but obviously we've just made a mess out here." And she looked at me and she said, "Oh!" she said, "Well," she said, "You know I've been and I've visited the church, but my husband has never been." And I thought, "Yeah, he's the guy that just painted the step that I stepped on." [congregation laughter] And I thought this guy is lost forever, he will never come to church. Well, needless to say we had a quick encounter, it was one of the most embarrassing ministry visits that I ever made in my entire life. To this day I still remember the feelings that I had because of that stick...you know that porch paint's not just like normal paint, it's big thick gooey paint and I mean it marked a pain of shoes I had on, I mean it was a reminder in my closet forever of those...of that morning and of that experience, but it was embarrassing, I felt defeated and frankly I don't know what ever happened to the people. I don't know if they ever came back to the church or not, probably not!

But you know as I thought about that I thought about the fact that you know that's how a lot of us feel when it comes to the matter of prayer. Many of us in life feel that when it comes to the matter of praying that we sort of get to God's porch, leave a few footprints and are somewhat defeated, deflated and embarrassed by the way that we came and the way that we went and we're not really sure whether or not anything happened because we tried to pray. For far too many of us prayer is a frustration. For far too many of us prayer is a burden that we bear knowing that we should do it more and should be better at it, but we are often conflicted and frustrated and upset by the fact that we feel that we just aren't good at praying, or that our prayers are never any further than the front porch of heaven. Now I don't believe that that's the way God intends for prayer to be in our lives. I believe that prayer is vital and important in the life of every single believer, in the life of every family and in the life of every church. Great believers throughout the years in the history have shared that same conviction. It was S. D. Gordon who said:

"You can do more that pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Prayer is striking the winning blow...Service is gathering up the results."

I love that! So many times when we gather here at Prestonwood on a weekend we have the opportunity of...of gathering the results of many people's prayers and seeds that have been sown during the week and we are seeing God move and work in our church. And I believe that we know some things about prayer, but there's so much more that we need to know. A. T. Pierson said:

"Generally, if not uniformly prayer is ~~both starting~~...it's both the starting point and goal of every movement in which are the elements of permanent progress. Whenever the church is aroused and the world's wickedness is arrested somebody, somewhere has been praying."

What an important word that is for us to remember. And then Andrew Murray, written wonderful books on prayer, some of the great classic books on prayer. If you've never read his book *With Christ And The School Of Prayer*, it's a great book to read. He said this:

"The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution in history to world evangelization."

And Charles Finney said this:

"Nothing tends more to cement the heart of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer."

Do you know that's why I want us to pray when we gather? Because there is something that is so distinct and different about the activity of prayer when we come in this place pulling apart from all the other things we've done and been a part of in the world, in the course of a day, when we can come and not simply be here and have music and song and simply have the preacher guy get up and say the message but when the people come and open their hearts in prayer. There's a love that is poured out, there's a bond that is forged, there's a growth that happens in a fellowship when we give our hearts in this way to the Lord. That's why it's so important for us to pray. And then Charles Spurgeon said it this way:

"Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence."

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God moves and answers prayer and I want you to know that's not just something that we put on bumper stickers and tee shirts and make Christian slogans out of, it's something that the Bible teaches. It teaches it specifically. It teaches it triumphantly and I want you and I want me tonight to look together at what Jesus had to say to His disciples about the subject of prayer. So in Luke chapter 11, verse 1 this is what we read:

¹And it came to pass as He was praying in a certain place,...

Be sure you get that framework.

...it came to pass as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray,..."

Of all things that the disciples could have asked Jesus to do, the one thing that they asked was:

... "Lord, teach us to pray,..."

I've not found anywhere in the Scripture where it says that the disciples

said Lord teach us to preach or that they said Lord teach us to perform miracles. But they said:

... *"Lord, teach us to pray,..."*

We need to understand this thing that we see you doing because there is consequence when you pray. One of the great studies of the Bible is to look at the prayer life of Jesus and what God did through the prayer of Christ and how the disciples witnessed the power of His prayer. And so the Bible says that they said:

... *"Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples to pray."* ²And so He said to them, *"When you pray, say:..."*

And let's say it together, it's on the screens.

... *"...Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ³Give us this day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, As we forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."* ⁵And He said to them. *"Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me from his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are in bed with me; I cannot rise and give it to you'? ⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹And I say to you, ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and everyone who knocks the door will be opened. ¹¹If a son asks for bread from a father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will he give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask of Him!"*

Now as they talked about prayer Jesus specifically related prayer to a story, to an illustration and it was the story that is known, the parable that is known as a friend at midnight. You have to be sure that you understand the context of this story. They lived in a day, they lived in a time when people would journey and people would travel, but let me tell you what they couldn't do. They couldn't ride along all day on the camel and suddenly say you know it's getting late, reach back in a burlap sack, pull out a cell phone and say I need to call em and tell em we're gonna be in a little later tonight. They couldn't take out some sort of a PEA device and send a little text message or an e-mail over and say hey we're comin, in fact they didn't have any mail. When you traveled in that day and time nobody even knew you were coming, you just sat out on the journey and you just hoped somebody was there when you got there and when as in this case someone showed up at the door and they came in unexpectedly and

they came at night, obviously it was late at night. It could have been because of the heat of the day he determined that he needed to travel a little later that day and into the evening. When he got there he got to the friends house and the friend suddenly realized I don't have anything to give him. Again, let's go back to the culture and the context. Did they have refrigerators? No! Did they go down to 7 Eleven and buy bread at the store? No! Everything they had, they had because it was prepared on site, on the spot, on the day of.

I can remember so well, when I was a, when I was a kid I'd go to my grandmother's house and my grandmother could always put a major meal and spread on the table within just a few minutes of when you'd get there even if she didn't know you were coming. I never could figure this out, but my grandmother had grown up in the country, down in Mississippi and it was natural for them as southerners to be able to always put kind of a spread of vegetables and meats on the table and I'm telling you, you could go to my grandmother's house and she'd say, "Are you hungry?" And I'd say, "Yeah, I'd like a little somethin." And I mean I would sit at the table and in minutes there were fresh biscuits on the table. I never could figure out how she could do that, but you know she was accustomed to doing that, she...she knew how to mix things together and get it goin and she could just pull it out and make it happen and she prepared everything. But, you know, my world's not like that and your world's not like that, but the world of the ancient world was so much so that...that in that day and in that time they didn't have provisions for people, they had to make provisions and this guy shows up at his friend's house and when he gets there the friend doesn't have anything and the only hope he has is to go next door and to ask his neighbor to give him some help. So he goes, he speaks to his neighbor, he knocks on the door and the neighbor immediately says hey go away, go away. Again, the neighbor had closed down for the day. He had locked in. They didn't have houses with many different rooms like we have. You know we've got bedrooms and studies and kitchens and dining rooms and living rooms and family rooms and media rooms and dog rooms; you name it we got it. But they typically had one room and they would all go in to that room and when they'd get in and they'd put the kids down and they were asleep they were all together in that room. So, not only was the house shut down, you didn't have electric lights that you turn on, all the lights, all the lanterns had been put out, all the wicks had been snuffed. You couldn't take a little Bic lighter and relight something, you know you had to create that and that was all part of it. I mean just think about this scene and there's a guy at the door goin [knocks on podium] "Hey, help, [more knocking] I need some bread!" And he's goin, shhhhh, my kids are asleep, I can't come. But Jesus said that:

"...thought he will not rise and give it to him because he's his friend, but because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs."

And with this story Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Now, of course, before He got into the story He gave them a guide for prayer. In reality the Scripture really does not tell us that when we pray we're supposed to say these things. My translation says that, but the more accurate

translations say:

"When you pray, pray in this manner."

This is an example, this is a guideline for prayer, sort of teaching us how to pray and what to do. But, what I want you to see in all of this portion of Scripture that we've read tonight is that there is an incredible story that unfolds here that teaches us about prayer and it's really based on 3 simple concepts, **3 CONCEPTS!**

Concept #1 is the concept of **RELATIONSHIP**...relationship! Whether it was Jesus the Son praying to the Father or Jesus teaching us to pray or the neighbor going to his friend, the reality is, is that every part of the instruction of prayer begins with the concept of relationship. Here this neighbor goes to his...to the neighbor's house and calls on his friend. He had a relationship with this neighbor and I might add that in that day and time the way that the neighborhood, the way that the community responded to a traveler said a lot about the values of that neighbor. So, you could shame the whole neighborhood if you didn't take care of a traveler. It was kinda a code of ethics of the day. And so as a result this neighbor her...helped his friend. Jesus taught us that when we pray that we pray on this basis:

"Our..."

What?

"...Father who is in heaven..."

We are to pray on the basis of relationship. Jesus said in another place in John chapter 15: [verse 15]

"...I call you friends..."

You're not just my servants, you're my friends, you share a unique relationship with Me and of course we have also come into that relationship for we are called sons of God. And so prayer is not intended to be a hit or miss experience based on my uncertainties and my lack of confidence, prayer is always founded and based on this...it is based on a relationship with God. And you wanna know why many people are not confident in prayer it's because they're really not confident in their relationship with God. You read and study the book of 1st John that our pastor's preaching through right now and you'll find that it talks about confidence about what we believe and then we have confidence when we pray. You see we've got to know that we have a relationship with God and that relationship has been established through our Savior Jesus Christ. And once we have believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ there is a strong and secure relationship that gives us access to pray and to seek the...the blessings and the help and the grace of God in every point of need in life. I love what the Bible tells us about our relationship with God as our creator with Christ as our priest and with the Spirit as the One who

enables us to pray. One of my favorite passages of Scripture on prayer is Hebrews chapter 4, beginning in verse 13, I believe I've got it here on the screen. The Bible says:

¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account. ¹⁴And seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with us in our weakness, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

And then it goes on to say:

¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.

God doesn't want us to come sheepishly with uncertainty, God wants us to come boldly to the throne of grace that we might find help. This passage of Scripture tells us that whenever we pray God sees, God knows, God cares. I want you to know that tonight that whenever you pray because of your relationship with Him, as His son as His daughter, God sees, God knows and God cares.

But there's a second concept that we need to see tonight and that is the concept of **REQUEST**. It begins with relationship, my relationship with God, but then prayer always involves a request. The Bible says that Jesus taught His disciples to pray:

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

And then look at verse 4: [should be 3]

"Give us this day our daily..."

What? Naw, you didn't say it, com on now, I don't wanna preach by myself. You all need to help me tonight. Okay?

"Give us this day our daily...bread..."

Now when the man came at midnight and the friend went to his neighbor's house what did he ask his neighbor to give him? Bread! And then if you look down in verse 11, the Bible says that:

"If a son asks for..."

Something from his father, will he give you a fish or give you a serpent? What did the friend ask? What do we ask of our father? Bread! Can you connect the dots? That all of this is connected in the Bible, it's all about the bread and bread is an incredible example of prayer that asks God specifically and petitions God for a specific need. We come to God and we

ask God specifically in prayer for the needs that we have and because of a relationship with Him He has opened the door of opportunity and said come and ask Me. Whatever it is in your life that you need it needs to start with you asking God. Bread is the ultimate picture of what we need to be sustained in life. And whether it's Jesus teaching us to ask for bread or the man at midnight trying to prevail against his reluctant neighbor to get bread or whether it's a son who is asking his father for bread, He's not gonna give us a stone. He wants to meet our needs. So, prayer involves a request. So there's a relationship, there's a request...

And then there's a third thing that we learn about prayer and that is about **RESPONSE**...response. Obviously the disciples noticed that when Jesus prayed something happened and interestingly enough when we read this passage of Scripture something always happened when a request or a petition was made.

What happened at the neighbor's house when the man knocked on the door and asked? What was the end result? He got what he needed. What is the promise? That if a son shall ask his father for bread that the father will give it to him and therefore the Bible teaches that God always responds to prayer. **GOD ANSWERS PRAYER**. But, before we mistake the picture that Jesus is giving here we need to take time and examine it just a little bit...in...in a little bit more careful and a little more close fashion. Because, the Bible teaches us here that Jesus shared this parable, but the para...parable if we draw too much parallels, if we draw too many lines we suddenly have a problem with what we read in this parable. Let me illustrate what I'm talking about. When you get ready to ~~play~~...pray is God ever sleeping? Is God asleep? Is prayer goin and tryin to wake God up and get His attention? But you notice in this parable, don't you, that this neighbor was asleep and sometimes we read this and we say well this must be a picture of tryin to get God to answer prayer and so it starts with the fact that I gotta go over and wake God up, cause God's fallen asleep. No, the Bible says:

[Psalm 121:4]

...He that keeps Israel neither slumbers or sleeps.

You see that's why I read to you that passage out of Hebrews, He sees, He knows and He cares. There's not ever any thing that you come to God with that He doesn't already see and doesn't already understand. So, be careful when you read the parable that when you look at the response that you don't thing that the first response is that we gotta wake God up.

Second when we look at God, let me ask you this, is God resistant? Do you notice what the neighbor said? The neighbor said, "Go away!" Do you think that's what Jesus was trying to teach us about God? That when you come to the Father and you bring a desperate need to the Father that the Father's gona look and you and say go away I'm busy? No! That's not at all what He's talking about here. He's not saying that God's asleep, He's not saying that God is reluctant. Someone has said it so well:

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, it's laying hold of God's

highest willingness."

And God wants to hear and God wants to answer when we pray and so the idea that God is somehow reluctant and resistant is not exactly right either.

And then we look at this passage of Scripture again and we have to say well, then the neighbor finally answers after the man knocked and knocked and knocked, the man finally answered and because of his persistence he finally just wore the guy out and he finally got up and gave him some bread. Now I don't wanna minimize persistence in prayer. One of the key elements of prayer taught throughout the Bible and whenever you study the Bible you gotta compare passage with passage, verse with verse, one of the key things in the Bible is that the Bible teaches us that we are to **WAIT ON GOD**. That is that we're to pay attention to God we're to wait on Him. And waiting on God, persevering with God, persisting with God is a part of the walk of the Christ faith and it's a part of receiving, but if we're not careful we'll look at this parable and we'll think that what He was talking about here is that somehow this guy was a picture of a person who has a need and if they'll just keep pushin God and pushin God and pushin God, God'll just finally say My goodness just have it your way. Is that what prayer is? Waking God up overcoming God's reluctance, finally prevailing against the will of God to get what I want? You know, I've seen people do this all the time. They say boy somethin's so wrong we gotta get to some heavy duty prayer, we just gotta wear God out so He finally says okay. I hear people say that all the time about prayer, but I don't think that's what Jesus was teaching, because none of those pictures are consistent with what He says about the Father. No, you see this was not so much an allegory it was a contrast, because what He said in the end if a neighbor is willing to get up in the middle of the night and to do something for a strange traveler that's come and will ultimately respond; how much more do you think God is gonna meet needs when you come and ask Him? It's not that we have to overcome what God doesn't wanna do. It's that we have to see and understand that God will respond when we come to Him.

So what does He tell us to do? He says there're 3 things you need to do, you need to **ASK**, you need to **SEEK** and you need to **KNOCK**. That's really what prayer is folks, it's asking, seeking, knocking.

WHAT IS ASKING? Well, asking is simply expressing a need. Asking is an expression of dependency. To ask is to **PETITION**. Will You help me? Can I have this? It's a petition, a petition meaning that...that you are requesting something that you need and that you do not have and therefore asking is a petition that expresses dependence upon God and prayer at it's very essence, at it's most elementary nature, prayer is asking God, it is dependence and expressing my faith and dependence on God to meet the needs of my life. God made you and me to be dependent creatures and God wants us to recognize our dependence upon Him and a part of what prayer is, is a recognition every day in my life that I need God and that I am dependent upon Him. Therefore Jesus said when you pray you are to ask, you are to petition, you are to express the dependence of your heart and of your life

upon God and prayer is simply this, it is asking and expressing dependency upon the God who has the supply for everything that I need. There is no greater recognition in life than the recognition that I need God. I need Him for my salvation, My Father, but I need Him for every day in life. But not only is prayer based on asking, that's one of the simple responses of prayer. Prayer is also based on seeking.

AND WHAT DOES SEEKING REFER TO? Well, seeking is an expression of **DESIRE**. It is an expression of desire, when I seek something it's something that I want, it something that...that I'm...that I'm looking for in life, that I'm pursuing and so seeking is to seek according to desire and not only is prayer an expression of my dependence, prayer is an opportunity for me to come to God, my Father, who I depend upon and say Lord I have desires. And God wants to meet the desires of your heart. Well, He doesn't wanna meet em all just like you want those, but He wants to meet them. In fact in Psalm 37 in verse 4 the Bible tells us that is we will:

Delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart.

God wants to shape the desires of your heart and therefore a part of prayer is not only asking and petitioning, saying I depend upon God, it is seeking and desiring after God, that God may reshape the affections of my life according to His plan and purpose. And then in the end prayer is knocking, [knocks on podium] knocking.

I BELIEVE KNOCKING IS an incredible picture of **DESPERATION** and God has given us prayer as a means to release our desperations to Him. When we come to heaven and we knock, [knocks on podium] it's not so much that we're saying God look at me, oh sometimes that's part of it, but it's also saying God I'm looking to You...I'm looking to You...God I'm desperate for You. And we come and we knock. You know knocking can be a...especially late at night can be a very disturbing experience can't it? Have you ever had somebody come to your door late at night?

Never forget, living in Merrit Island, Florida, 3 o'clock in the morning I started hearing something knock on the door and then somebody started knocking on our window, on our bedroom, I mean knocking. [knocks] Scared us to death, we got up, went around, looked out the windows, I couldn't find anybody, I was gettin on the phone, I was startin to call 911, I just knew something had...had happened somebody, you know, just something...something was wrong. And finally I realized our daughter had gone over to spend the night with one of her friends who were in our church and she'd gotten upset during the middle of the night and they came over and instead of calling us to tell us they were tryin to knock on the window and wake us up. It was...it was very frustrating. Heh! [congregation laughter] Tickith me off to the biblical sense. [more laughter] Why didn't you just call? I was about to call the police on you. You know? But when we knock we're expressing desperation and prayer involves expressing desperation to God. Prayer is coming to the place where I understand that the Bible teaches that: [James 4:6]

... "God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

And therefore I am to humble myself under the mighty hand of God that He may lift me up, that He may exalt me in due time. I'm desperate! I call out to Him! He is the faithful Father and the Bible says that God answers prayer. Do you believe that tonight? I think you wanna believe that tonight don't you? In your heart of hearts you want to believe that God really answers prayer, but there's one big question that's remaining.

How? How does God answer prayer? Because there are so many times in my life when I think about these things and I want these things and I...I wanna ask and seek and knock, but God I just don't know exactly how and I don't know how You're gonna answer my prayer. Well, I don't know who first said it but it's been a great help to me and I leave it with you tonight. How Does God Answer Prayer? Well, let me suggest several ways.

1. If when I pray my request is wrong God simply says, "**NO.**" Did you know that "No" is an answer to prayer? Have you ever thought about that? No, is an answer. If you don't believe that the next time your kids come up and say can we do such and such instead of saying maybe, say no, because you're gonna get a lot different response between maybe and no. But no is an answer and as a parent there are times when you look at your children and you have to say, no. I got two knew fathers to be sittin right here, guys learn to say no. Let's say it together, yeah, let's say it carefully now, let's say it. No! Now when it's your wife you say? Okay! Ohhhhh, we have split opinions [congregation laughter] one's a good husband, the other one's got some work to do. Okay. [more laughter] You have to learn to say "No." And God sometimes answers your prayer and mine when I ask and seek and knock by simply saying "No!"
2. Secondly, if the timing is wrong God may say "**SLOW**" it just needs to slow down, it's not right now and that's very hard for me because most of what I ask God for I want an e-mail or a text message within the next 5 minutes. I'm kinda getting used to that in life and I want God to operate that way. Heh! But a lot of times God says it's gonna be snail mail. Heh! It's gonna take some time and sometimes God says "slow."
3. If I am wrong and there's something in me that needs to be made right then many times God says "**GROW**" I want you to grow into this, I want a grown you and strengthen you and enable you to see that I'm always faithful in your life, that I will always answer, but sometimes My answer's gonna involve more than you thought because I'm gonna do something in you while I do something for you.
4. But if the request is right and the time is right and I'm right, then hallelujah God says what? "**GO!**" That's it, Go! And there will be days and times and moments in your life when you...God'll just say go! And you say wow, God just answered prayer, I can't believe it, God answered a prayer. He does! He always does, He just doesn't always do

it how and when and where we want it done.

And so if you will learn the story of friendship, that it's all about a relationship, a request and a response then you will begin to learn more about what it is to be a man or a woman of prayer. The songwriter said it so well when they said: [What A Friend We have In Jesus]

*O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*