

PRAYER Part 1

General Comments:

- 1) Everyone's experience, questions and opinions matter. We are here to listen to each other and learn from one another, not teach others.
- 2) There are no wrong answers. We trust that God's truth is revealed from our collective sharing in the Spirit rather than from one person's expertise or authority.

Opening Questions:

- 1) Have you had positive experiences of prayer and positive outcomes from prayer?
- 2) Have you had any disappointing experiences of prayer and feelings that your prayers have not been answered?
- 3) Does your prayer include: thanksgiving, petition (asking for things), intercession (praying for others, our world), confession (I'm sorry about... please forgive me)? What about praise (I'm so happy, O God, I praise you, O God...) or supplication (O God, help me....)

Luke 11. 5-13

5 And Jesus said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him."⁷And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything."⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

9 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

1) What is the main point of vs. 5-8? What about vs. 9-13?

2) Will God give us anything we pray for?

3) What will receiving the Holy Spirit do for us? (Think with your heart)