



Pastor Scott Archer 03.13.2016*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Praying to Our Father Matthew 7:7-11

Series: (Re)Discovering the Power of Persistent Prayer

Central Passage

Matthew 7:7–11 (ESV) — **7** "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. **9** Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? **11** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Central Thought: In its purest form, prayer is simply, yet profoundly, the cry of a needful child to its true Father for comfort, provision and direction.

Matthew 6:9 (ESV) — **9** Pray then like this: "**Our Father** in heaven, hallowed be your name.

- ❖ As children of our Heavenly Father, we are encouraged to be persistent in bringing our needs before him and in seeking his guidance.

1 Peter 5:6–7 (ESV) — **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, **7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.** (See also, *Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 18:1-9, James 4:3; John 14:13-14*)

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- ❖ Our Heavenly Father's love and care for us far surpasses even the best of human parents.

Luke 15:20–24 (ESV) — **20** And he arose and came to his father. **But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. (See also, *Luke 15:11-32; James 1:16-18*)

- ❖ Our Heavenly Father meets our deepest needs.

Luke 11:13 (ESV) — **13** If 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!"**

The Example of Jesus

Mark 14:36 (ESV) — **36** And he said, "**Abba, Father**, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Galatians 4:6 (ESV) — **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**" (See also, *Romans 8:15*)

Homework

- ❖ Read the "See also" passages above.
- ❖ Continue reading "Red Moon Rising"
- ❖ Set aside some time this week to seek your Father in prayer.