

# ***Reasons to Persist in Prayer***

***International Bible Lesson***

**Luke 11:1-13**

**Sunday, January 4, 2015**

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*“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Luke 11:10—KJV).*

*“For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened” (Luke 11:10—NRSV).*

Begin the New Year with assurance by believing in the promises Jesus gave His followers. After His disciples asked Jesus how to pray, they received His answer immediately. He taught them to pray directly to His Father and their Father by calling God “Father.” As followers of Jesus, in their relationship with God they would learn the characteristics of a perfect Father by the way God treated them. They would also learn the perfect characteristics of the Father from Jesus himself, for Jesus told them that whoever has seen Him has seen the Father (John 14:9). In addition, Jesus told them not to expect God to always give them an immediate answer. When they did not receive an immediate answer, Jesus encouraged them to persist in praying until they received God’s answer. If they did not receive God’s answer as quickly as they anticipated, they should search for the reason why or search for an unexpected answer or solution that God wanted them to find from searching. If they searched, they would find. Whether asking or searching, Jesus assured all who follow Him that if they ask God for something, even something as small as a fish or an egg, that God would never give them anything that would not meet their needs or something that would harm them. God would only give what was good and best for all concerned. Even better than asking God for something, is asking God if we can come into His presence. If we knock on the door of our Father’s palace, He will open the door and we can pray in His presence.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. If you were disciple of Jesus, why would you want to learn how to pray from Him?
2. Read again how Jesus taught His disciples to begin their prayers in Luke 11:2. How might your prayers be different if you began all of your prayers with this or a similar request?
3. What might you say to someone who said to you, “I just cannot forgive them because. . . .”?
4. What difference does it make to you when you remember that as a follower of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior that God is your Father and Friend?
5. From Luke 11:1-13, what truths do you think are the most important to you personally?