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- We continue stedfastly in doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Let them hear

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- **Let voices unite sharing a prayer of peace.**
- Testify in the Lord that you no longer walk in vanity of mind, darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of ignorance and hardening of heart. Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear. Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom ye were sealed unto the day of redemption. Amen.  
(Ephesians 4: 17-18 ; 29-30 ASV)

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- For many people, prayer consists of asking God to fulfill their needs and desires.
- Their prayer never goes beyond asking and hoping to receive.
- These see God as the sovereign Lord over all creation.
- They believe nothing happens outside of His perfect will.
- Not knowing His will, they never presume to know the outcome of prayers in advance.

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- They are offended by prayers presuming to know the will of God.
- Other people pray with the premise God has given them authority and power.
- God delegated responsibility, like a military officer involved in war.
- Their prayers contend for the promised inheritance.
- They can't justify begging God to act, and become frustrated with those who do.

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- **Text:** Luke 8: 1-13 KJV
- It came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said to them, When you pray, say, Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us

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not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. And he said to them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of my in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give you. I say to you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity

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he will rise and give him as many as he needs. And I say to you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your

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children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

- The willingness of the Father to answer prayer was the subject of Jesus' teaching.
- Importunity means persistently beg.
- Persistence in prayer requires active faith. You must be willing to spend hours, days, weeks, months, or years; if that is what it takes.
- We expect immediate results and if we don't



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see instant change we give up, blaming God.

- **Text:** Luke 11: 5 J. B. Phillips Modern English Translation
- If any of you has a friend, and you go to him in the middle of the night and say, 'Lend me three loaves, my dear fellow, for a friend of mine has just arrived after a journey and I have no food to put in front of him.' Then he answers from inside the house, 'Don't bother me with your troubles. The front door is locked and my children and I have gone to bed. I simply can not get up now and give you anything!' Yet,

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I tell you, that even if he won't get up and give him what he wants simply because he is his friend, yet if he persists, he will rouse himself and give him everything he needs. And so I tell you, ask and it will be given to you, search, and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. The one who asks will always get; the one who is searching will always find, and the door is opened to the man who knocks.

- The gentile physician Luke accompanied the apostle Paul. Seeing his ministry first hand. He

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writes; we continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word. Acts 6: 4 ASV

- Someone in need of healing doesn't think it foolish to visit the physician over and over again. As long as they need healing they don't give up.
- Luke knew medical procedures and chose to write about prayer and laying on of hands. Is it because he knew prayer would tip the scales of healing when medical procedures reached a limit?

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- Determination and persistence affect healing. None of us know why some healing is instant and some requires a long period of time. Why should it be any different with physicians and prayer?
- If your prayer of healing does not have signs of healing develop persistence. Don't quit.
- John's gospel is different from Luke's. Almost the whole action takes place in Jerusalem. According to John the Gospel's beginning on earth was a man called John the Baptist. He

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was a priest of the order of Aaron, a rabbi, and a prophet. John the Baptist witnessed and gave testimony he saw the Spirit come down like a dove from Heaven and rest upon Jesus, who is seen and recognized as Messiah in the first chapter by the author, Andrew and Phillip.

- John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray and Luke set in order the prayer known as, The Lord's Prayer, John taught his disciples.
- This model prayer was from John the Baptist, a voice that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness

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the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40: 3 ASV

- Luke set in order John the Baptist, shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and filled with the Holy Spirit, from his mother's womb. Luke 1: 15 ASV
- Is it a wonder Luke taught to persist in asking the heavenly Father to give the Holy Spirit? And that He would give to them that ask;
- Word of Wisdom and Knowledge
- Word of Faith

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- Gifts of Healing
- Working of Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning Spirits
- Kinds of Tongues & Interpretation
- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. To him that overcometh, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God. Revelation 2: 7 ASV

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- **Join voices in a Benediction Prayer.**
- I declare I will get understanding with truth; if error is present I will correct it; then do whatever it takes to change and live however I must to make the change complete.

*You are invited to join us  
Sunday morning we gather to celebrate the  
Lord's Supper and worship at 10:00 am.*