

# Practical Prayer Course



## Session Six: Pray Until You Pray

Part of a six week group study to help start or renew a life of prayer

find this and other resources at [redeemermcr.com/prayer](https://redeemermcr.com/prayer)

Go through the video as a group and discuss any questions.

The idea of praying until you pray is one of persistence, but not rote repetition. Think back to when you were a child. Can you remember wanting something so badly you wished for it each night? Perhaps you asked your parents over and over? Share with the group.

### **Shameless audacity.**

Luke 11.5–13: Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Share with the group what you notice from this teaching from Jesus.

Would you characterise your conversations with God as shamelessly audacious? What would your life look like if you were? Brainstorm in your group how you can grow in this together.

## **Rest and cherish.**

“To enter the spirit of prayer, we must stick with it for a while. If we ‘pray until we pray,’ eventually we come to delight in God’s presence, to rest in His love, to cherish His will.” D.A. Carson, *Praying with Paul*, p. 18.

Little desperate prayers are good, but we need more than little desperate prayers if we want to experience the breadth of God’s grandeur and depth of His love. Short prayers are necessary, but short prayers rarely get beyond formalism. Longer prayers, like longer conversations, leave space for God to work in a different way than with shorter prayers.

What does it mean to “rest in His love”? To “cherish His will”? How would that affect your daily life?

## **Time.**

When starting something new, it’s easy for our excitement to be larger than our capacity. We might want to pray for 5 hours straight before we can really pray for 5 minutes. To pray “in the Spirit” as Jude 20 references, can take time. This is okay and preferable, even. To start or renew a prayer life one should start small.

What’s the smallest possible step you can take in your own prayer life? This might be a set amount of time in prayer, might be trying on a new tool, could even just be starting to pray at all. Prayer is difficult already, make it as easy and simple as you can.

## **The gift of God’s presence.**

Deuteronomy 4.7–8: “What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?”

Scripture and prayer are gifts from God that allow us to become more aware to His ongoing presence in our lives. God uses prayer as an entry point to enjoy our relationship with Him, to be more sensitive to our own spiritual condition, and to grow in how we love other people.

Of these three main areas we’ve been looking at over this course (God, self, others):

Where do you believe God is growing you right now?

Where might you be resisting this change?

How would a more robust prayer life make you more alive to Him?

What is one small step for you to take? Your group? Your church?

