

Sermon Questions: Prayer, Does it Matter

Luke 11:5-10

1. Share a time when God answered a prayer the way you had hoped and prayed He would.
2. Share a time when a prayer was not answered in the way you had hoped and prayed.
3. Pastor Mark suggests that there are two domains of God's will. First there is God's Determined Will. These are things God has determined to do regardless of how we pray. Second, there is God's Permissive Will. These are things God might do because we pray. How do you feel about that distinction?
4. Pastor Mark suggests that we do not always (or even usually) know which things are in God's Determined Will or God's Permissive Will, so we must pray with faith and trust in humble submission. Can you recall a time you struggled to accept an answer to prayer that was not what you wanted?
5. Why do you think God allows evil, suffering and pain to exist in this life? How can such things serve God's ultimate purpose for us?
6. Pastor Mark suggests that perhaps the biggest question we should try to answer is not "why does God allow evil and suffering?" but rather, "what does God want me to do to help overcome evil and suffering?" How might asking that question impact our lives and our world?
7. Read Luke 11:5-10. Why do you think Jesus teaches us to be persistent in prayer?
8. Why do you think God might sometimes require us to ask multiple times for something before He gives it to us?
9. What sort of things are you "persistently praying for" these days?
10. If you could ask God to give you one thing, what would it be? Are you willing to commit to praying for that one thing?