**Shameless and Bold Prayer life**

Jesus teaches on prayer in the gospels in a number of different passages. Matthew 5:44, Matthew 6:5-13, **Mark 11:22-25 (to the mountain: go throw yourself into the sea)**, Luke 6:28, **Luke 11:1-13, Luke 18:1-8**. From what I can see these teachings are either about praying for your enemies or they are about encouraging BOLD prayers.

My purpose today is to encourage you to continue in or enter into a BOLD and Shameless prayer life. God wants his people to PRAY but more than that to pray BOLDLY.

Prayer engages the heart of God by allowing him to show love. It allows him to demonstrate his character which is LOVE.

God encourages us or commands us to pray through many different passages of the Bible:

* ‘Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near’ Isaiah 55:6
* ‘Do not be anxious, but in everything by prayer and petition present your requests to God.’ Phillipians 4:6
* ‘Pray without ceasing’ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Read Luke 11:1-4

Vs 8 ‘boldness’ means ‘importunity (bearing on, pressing, demand), shamelessness or impudence (lack of modesty). Only used twice in the Bible. (Gal 5:15)

Holy Spirit was speaking to these men as they wrote their accounts. Each one emphasised different things. Comparison with Matthew’s account Matthew 6:9-13.

Matthew is a tax collector= emphasis on forgiveness, being humble and genuine in prayer and being acknowledged by God.

Luke the doctor = emphasis on boldness in prayer. Emphasis on process of prayer, active. Luke includes the Lord’s prayer with the parable of the friend knocking on the door at midnight AND adds ‘Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find’. In Matthew’s gospel we don’t necessarily have the ‘Ask, seek find’ verse associated with the Lord’s prayer AND a story about boldness.

Lesser to the Greater technique of explaining. Jesus describes a scenario that takes God OUT of the equation so that when He is put back into the equation it is through the correct lens that we see Him.

**Vs 13 ‘how much more** will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Later in Luke 18:1-8 – The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Vs 4 ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me…’ vs 7 ‘Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones who cry out (speak with high strong voice, implore aid, ‘haloo’, shout in a tumultuous way) to Him day and night?’

WHY WOULD A PERSON PRAY WITH SHAMLESSNESS AND BOLDNESS? THEY ARE IN TRUTH

1. **They are passionate about the need**
2. **They know that in God there is a supply of ‘food’**
3. **They are confident that God knows/acknowledges them**
4. **They are confident in God’s character**

PRAYING IN FAITH- what is faith?

God is teaching us to be co-heirs with him in bringing his Kingdom!

God redeems us but doesn’t want us to be meek, timid, children who never graduate from being relieved that our sin is gone NO he redeems us then teaches us to be BOLD AND BRAVE SONS!

When we pray we participate in the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God exists whether or not we pray but our faith ‘substantiates’ it into the Earth just like our senses substantiate light and sound to us.

By just simply praying we are not necessarily guaranteed to be effective. It’s the persistence and boldness that Luke emphasised.

Luke 18: 8b ‘…will be find faith on the Earth?’ Faith is being linked to BOLD PERSISTENT PRAYERS

Mark 11:22-24 ‘Have faith in God…whatever you ask for in prayer believed you have received it…’

**What is Faith?**

Hebrews 11:1 ‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’

**How do we build Faith?**

Romans 10:17 ‘Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word (rhema) of Christ.’