

## Prayer: Life in the Vertical

Series: *First Things First*

– Matthew 7:7-12 –

### 1. The Progression of Prayer

### 2. The Persistence of Prayer

### 3. The Product of Prayer

*“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, it is laying hold of His willingness.”*  
– Martin Luther

#### Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. In praying, what do you find is your biggest challenge?
3. Do you think Jesus is emphasizing persistence in prayer or God’s readiness to hear? What verse or point from this passage stands out to you the most?
4. Note the promises in this passage. How is this invitation by God *not* manipulating Him or treating Him like Santa Claus? Does God always answer prayer? What reasons might He *not* give us what we ask for (see Prov. 30:8-9).
5. In Luke’s account (11:11-13), Jesus reinforces the fact that if human parents, with all their faults, know how to give their children gifts that are good for them, how much more will our heavenly Father give good gifts to us, including and especially the gift the Holy Spirit. What is Jesus trying to help us understand?
6. How has your perception of God changed over the years? Consider the security in knowing Him as Abba Father (Rom. 8:15-16). How would you describe that security in your own words?

