

# Intercession: Which of You Shall Have a Friend? (God Gives You a Hard Job: To Wait Upon the lord.)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

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*Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the necessity of persistent prayer and waiting upon God to strengthen our faith and deepen our relationship with Him.*

**Scripture:** Luke 11:5

**Topics:** "Intercession", "Persistence in Prayer"

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## Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the vital role of persistent prayer and intercession in a Christian's life, illustrating that true friendship with God requires a heartfelt approach and unwavering faith. He draws from the parable of the friend at midnight to highlight that our needs should drive us to seek God, who is always ready to respond to our requests. Waldvogel encourages believers to wait upon the Lord, asserting that strength and power come from this divine connection, and that prayer is essential for spiritual vitality. He reminds us that without God, we can do nothing, and that our prayers should be persistent and filled with faith, as demonstrated by biblical figures like Elijah. Ultimately, Waldvogel calls for a life dedicated to prayer, emphasizing that it is through this commitment that we can truly experience God's presence and power.

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## Transcript

Selected Verses:

Luke 11:5-10. And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7And 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 thee. 8I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. 9And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Opening:

I was very much wanting God to come to my soul, and I found out that there cannot be a strong Christian except he be a prayerful Christian. When God says, "Do you want Me?" why Jesus says, "You can have Him. Go into your closet and shut the door; there's your Father." And He's not only there, but He is there to give you what you need. And unless you go to your Father and find an audience with Him and become--I was going to say, "chummy" with Him; that's not the right word to use. But you know, when a child says "Daddy," how sweet that sound!

When my little nephew and niece call me "Gogo"--I don't know where they got that word from--why that sounds so much better than when people call me "Reverend." They call me on the phone: "Is this Reverend Waldvogel?" I say, "Well... no. You got the wrong number. You gotta to call Virginia-67966." But when they say, "Gaga"--first they called me "Gogo," and now they call me "Gaga." And, oh, how sweet that sound!

And they're so persistent. I've got to keep the door locked. Not now so much anymore; they don't live in my house now. But when they did, if I wanted rest, I had to lock that door and be very quiet. They'd come stumbling up the stairs. They'd knock at the door. They'd say, "Gaga! Open up!" ...No sound... "Come on!" (knock, knock, knock) "Come on! I heard you cough; you're in there!" And then, little Edwin would say to Grace, "Go there and slam that door shut, and he'll come." They're bound to have me come around. And then I'm conquered. What am I going to do? Glory to God. I've learned many a lesson from them of persistence.

And if you want God, you cannot have Him unless you obey His call, as we heard a while ago: open your heart and love Him by letting Him fill you with His love, and His joy, and His peace. But in order to receive Him like that, there is that great need that the early church recognized: they abode constantly in the apostles' doctrine and in prayer.

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#### Selected Quotes:

Jesus gives us very wonderful instructions about prayer. He says, "Everyone that asketh receiveth." Why, He--the Almighty God--says, "There's a lot to receive!" But God has so arranged that you must ask. And "everyone that seeketh findeth." "They that seek Me early shall find..." What? "They shall find Me"! Oh, who wouldn't seek Him?

...

"Which of you shall have a friend at midnight?" And I'm impressed that Jesus didn't say, "Which of you shall be sick at midnight, or have a headache, or a stomachache, or an empty pocketbook," or anything like that. The question is not, "How great is your need?" The question is, "How great is your Friend? How faithful is your Friend?"--"Which of you shall have a friend at midnight?"

...

I don't believe there's an honest-to-goodness Pentecostal preacher who is not constantly conscious of his nothingness--his utter inability to minister anything at all. Jesus says, "Without Me, ye can do nothing." And I'm so glad that He has so arranged it that we can't get away from Him.

...

When Jesus says, "Everyone that asketh receiveth," He means that you should ask until you receive. And what shall I ask? Why, the things that He has purchased for me. What He has promised for me, that He will do, praise God! That's faith.

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There's nothing sweeter than a saint praying in the Holy Ghost. And I declare, you can't pray through except by that help, and you don't get that help if you don't give God time. That's what Jesus is talking about, "that men ought always to pray and not to faint."

...

God uses Elijah as an illustration to us how we ought to pray until fire falls. Beloved, our prayer will be useless unless it's "praying in the Holy Ghost." And it will not be that until we "give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. It's a sacrifice. It's a life--a life of prayer that God Almighty has destined for us: "I've chosen you for that very purpose that whatsoever ye ask the Father in My name..." Jesus needs Elijahs upon this earth; He needs Samuels, and Daniels, and Elijahs, and Moses; He needs men and women that will persist by faith. "Verily, I say unto you, He will avenge them speedily." Who? "They who cry to God day and night," and who will not faint.

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It's the call of God. It isn't something you can learn, but it's something you can receive. "Youths shall faint and be weary." I don't care how strong you are; I don't care how smart you are, and I don't care how spiritual you think you are: you're going to fail unless you receive strength from heaven.

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Beloved, someday we'll be filled with remorse and with shame. We'll be ashamed before heaven and hell and men if we don't wait upon our God so that He takes over. "He"--my Father--"waiteth to give power to the faint."

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Don't you think that you've received the baptism in the Holy Ghost just to have a good feeling, and to have a name! No, no; it's to give you job--to give you a "sword of the Spirit," and a "whole armor of God" and make you able to "stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Praying always with all prayer and"--how?--"supplication, and watching thereunto with all prayer and supplication for all saints and for me."

...

Jesus Christ says, "No man is crowned except he strive lawfully." And we're not fighting the Germans, nor the Communists, nor the Nazis; but oh, here's a whole hell full of enemies, and they're already defeated in the name of Jesus Christ. And it's for me to make my choice whom I'm going to follow. "If you live in the flesh"--all right, it's your privilege--"you shall die." And it's your privilege to live in the Holy Ghost, to lend yourself--your body--to be filled with the Holy Ghost. And how is it done? By waiting in faith upon the Lord. We have never had a week of prayer but everything changed.

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## Illustrations:

Waiting on God likened to the struggles of a butterfly. "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall utterly fall, but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.' It's a hard job. Don't look for an easy job." (from 6:43)

A man who didn't like prayer. "It bores me." (from 11:48)

The work in Brooklyn an example of the need of prayer. "Every item had to be prayed through, and was prayed through, and it was healthy. Oh, how healthy when you 'can do nothing'--nothing!" (from 23:06)

An early prayer to "shake the town," answered through the healing of a lame Russian-speaking man. "He came with crutches, and he walked out with his crutches on his back. And whereas always he went to town hall on Monday to get his relief money, now he came to get a job. And the whole gang came together--the mayor and the chief of police and the whole gang. They said, 'What happened to you?'" (from 24:43)

## References:

Virginia-67966. This was the telephone number of Hans Waldvogel's nephew and fellow pastor, Edwin H. Waldvogel.

Preacher and Prayer, by E. M. Bounds.

Within the Holiest

by Gerhard Tersteegen (translated by Frances Bevan)

(Revelation 1:5,6)

His priest am I, before Him day and night,

Within His Holy Place;

And death, and life, and all things dark and bright,

I spread before His Face.

Rejoicing with His joy, yet ever still,

For silence is my song

My work to bend beneath His blessed will,

All day, and all night long--

For ever holding with Him converse sweet,

Yet speechless, for my gladness is complete.

The Royal Priesthood

by Gerhard Tersteegen (translated by Frances Bevan)

(Jeremiah 33:18; Revelation 1:6)

The race of God's anointed priests shall never pass away;  
Before His glorious Face they stand, and serve Him night and day.  
Though reason raves, and unbelief flows on, a mighty flood,  
There are, and shall be, till the end, the hidden priests of God.  
His chosen souls, their earthly dross consumed in sacred fire,  
To God's own heart their hearts ascend in flame of deep desire;  
The incense of their worship fills His Temple's holiest place;  
Their song with wonder fills the Heavens, the glad new song of grace.

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