We Are PRAYER DEPENDENT

Luke 18v1-14

I INTRODUCTION

A) *"Prayer is the very way God Himself has chosen for us to express our conscious need of Him and our humble dependence on Him."* It is the first work of the believer. We cannot hope to become like Jesus unless we prioritize and practice prayer as he did during his earthly ministry. Indeed, in His name, we draw near to the throne of grace with confidence to receive help and mercy in our time of need and his Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray.

II WE ARE PRAYER DEPENDENT BECAUSE JESUS IS TRUSTWORTHY (v1-8)

A) We should pray because God is worthy of our trust *(v6-7)*

i) He is not like the unrighteous judge *(v6-7; Luke 11v5-13; Jn. 15v23-27)*

ii) We are not like the widow w/o access, advocate, or influence *(Heb. 10v19-22)*

iii) Prayer is the chief exercise of faith (*Heb. 11v6)*

B) We should persevere in prayer *(v1; 1 Thess. 5v17)*

i) Don't understand or like his answer *(John 13v7; Jam. 1v5-8; 1 John 5v14-15)*

ii) When we don't know what or how to pray *(Rom. 8v26)*

iii) Because prayer is a struggle/fight *(Rom. 15v30; Eph. 6v18; Col. 4v2)*

III **WE ARE PRAYER DEPENDENT BECAUSE WE'RE HELPLESS (v9-14)**

A) Prayer comes from recognizing our helplessness *(v13)*

i) Helpless in sin *(Rom. 6v17; Eph. 2v1)*

ii) Live in learned helplessness: humility & confidence *(John 15v5; Heb. 4v15-16; 1 Pet. 5v6-7)*

iii) Spirit of sonship & intercession *(Rom. 8v15, 26; Gal. 5v6; Eph. 6v18; Jd. 1v20)*

B) The result of praying in self-dependence

i) Works-righteousness and comparison *(v11-12)*

ii) Asking wrongly *(v9)* and not asking at all *(Jam. 4v2-3)*

iii) Jesus told us to ask *(John 15v24; Phil. 4v6)*

iv) Reasons we don't pray rooted in self-dependence:
(a) Insecurity – *"I don't know how."*
(b) Doubt – *"I don't know if it works."*
(c) Schedule – *"I don't have time."*
(d) Desire – *"I don't want to." (*
(e) Shame – *"I don't deserve to."* (Heb. 10v19)

IV **CONCLUSION**

A) *"Prayer itself is an art which only the Holy Ghost can teach us. He is the giver of all prayer. Pray for prayer- pray till you can pray."*
– Charles Spurgeon