



[Jesus said,]
“And I tell you,
ask and you will
receive; seek
and you will
find; knock and
the door will be
opened to you.”

LUKE 11:9

DAZZLE JAM/PEKLS

The Power of Prayer

“I’ll pray for you.” What a simple promise. When we make this promise, what do we expect it will accomplish? The sentence is really a statement of faith. It assumes a caring relationship between us and those for whom we pray. It presumes the other person trusts that we do care. Most importantly, it acknowledges there is so much we humans cannot achieve by ourselves, and so we turn in confidence to God that our needs are the concern of God as well.

Today’s first reading is the startling account of Abraham’s prayer for two sinful cities. He pleads with God to spare them for the sake of any righteous citizens found there. God is willing to do that if righteous citizens can be found. Abraham prays for people who do not deserve God’s mercy. But there it was. God’s mercy outstrips the most horrendous crimes. Abraham kept pleading, and God kept saying, “All right.”

The same persistence in prayer is found in the Gospel passage. The message there? Keep at it. We don’t know whether the praying will end as Abraham’s did or like that of the determined friend in the Gospel. That’s not our concern, because the way prayer is answered belongs to God, not to us. So then why pray if we can’t be confident about the answer? Because we believe we are connected to each other, and together we stand in need before a loving God who wants the best for us.

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FOR Reflection

- ★ *How often do you promise: “I’ll pray for you”?*
How often do you keep that promise?
- ★ *What do you hope prayer will accomplish?*