

Tri-State Community Church

www.tri-statecommunitychurch.org



*Gathering a family who loves and serves God through
Jesus Christ and leads others in kind.*

Living on Prayer

Luke 11:9-10

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Luke 11:9-10¹

*⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds,
and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

Tommy used to work on the docks
Union's been on strike
He's down on his luck...it's tough, so tough
Gina works the diner all day
Working for her man, she brings home her pay
For love - for love

She says: We've got to hold on to what we've got
It doesn't make a difference
If we make it or not
We've got each other and that's a lot
For love - we'll give it a shot

Ohh We're half way there
Woah Livin' on a prayer
Take my hand and we'll make it - I swear
Livin' on a prayer

In the above lyrics, Jon Bon Jovi speaks for a lot of people right now. In our young church there are several families attempting to make ends meet on less income. In addition to financial concerns there have been serious health issues. A nine year old with cancer, a niece with a ruptured appendix, another wrestles with serious depression, and a dear friend who is awaiting post surgery cancer treatment—just to mention a few.

What is our natural response to these kinds of crises? Whether one is religious or not, our instinctive response is to pray.

In times of crisis, people instinctively cry out to God.

This was certainly true of my life before I was a believer. When I found myself at the end of the rope, with no where else to turn, I would call on God.

Pointing to our natural inclination to pray, the famous 19th century preacher, Charles Spurgeon, told his congregation this story:

In one of his papers in the *Tattler*, Addison describes a man, who, on board ship, loudly boasted of his atheism. A brisk gale springing up, he fell upon his knees and confessed to the chaplain that he had been an atheist. The common seamen who had never heard the word before, thought it had been some strange fish, but were more surprised when they saw it was a man and learned out of his own mouth, “that he never believed till that day that there was a God.” One of the old sailors whispered to [one of the officers] that it would be a good deed to heave him overboard, but this was a cruel suggestion, for the poor creature was already in misery enough—his atheism had evaporated and he, in mortal terror, cried to God to have mercy upon him!

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from the English Standard Version.

Thirst informs us that we need water. Hunger informs us that we need food.
Crises inform us that we need our Creator.

For most folks, irreligion evaporates in times of crises. Why? Because we are created in God's image. We were created to have constant fellowship with God. When we are faced with a crisis, the immediate need of our circumstances causes us to recall that we have a Creator. This is why God often uses crises to draw men and women to Himself—often, it is the only way He can get our undivided attention.

Let us build together on this instinct by asking some questions. When you pray, who is it that you are praying to? Does the one you are praying to hear you? Can you be sure that you are heard? Does the one you are praying to have the ability to answer your prayer? Can you be sure? If so, how can you be sure that the one you are praying to is willing to answer your prayer? Does it matter who you pray to? Do all prayers go to the same place?

Next time we will examine how our text, Luke 11:9-10 answers many of the above questions.

Until next time, may God richly bless you!

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