

The Prayer of a Child — Sunday, October 18, 2015

一个孩子的祷告 – 主日，2015年10月18日

It's really great to be asked to share this morning. My family and I have been attending since the first Sunday of 2002. It's hard to believe that it's been more than thirteen years that we have called First Free our home and you all our church family. I'm especially happy to be part of this current series on prayer and particularly the place that we come to in that series. (Slide with Circle Chart) In the last two weeks, Don has spoken on the prayers that are offered by those that are "spiritually dead" and those that are "spiritual infants." I like this chart because we can each find ourselves along the progression that it shows. I also like it because just like our physical development, as we move onto each subsequent stage, from infant to child to young adult to parent, we build on each of the previous stages. This morning, we come to the question of how a spiritual child prays. This includes each and every one of us if we've believed in Christ and have accepted the grace that He offers to us.

今天上午能和大家分享信息，我非常高兴。我的家人和我自2002年第一个星期天开始就在这里聚会。很难相信，我们称 **First Free** 为我们家它已经超过13年，你们都是我们家庭一员。我特别高兴能成为这个祷告系列的讲员之一，特别是目前所在的部分（幻灯片与圆图）。在过去的两个星期，**Don** 牧师已经谈过了那些“属灵上死的”和那些所“属灵婴儿”的祷告。我喜欢这个图表，因为我们可以上面发现自己的进程。同时我喜欢它因为就像我们的身体发育，从婴儿到儿童到青年到成人父母，后面的阶段建立在先前的每个阶段。今天上午，我们来看一个“属灵上的孩子”是怎么祈祷的。这包括我们每一个信了基督，并接受了祂给我们的恩惠的人。

The Power of a Praying Child 孩子祷告的力量

Now for me, as the father of five children, this topic is especially appropriate. One of the most exciting parts of anticipating the arrival of a new son or daughter is the conversation between dad and mom about what to name the child. My wife Pam and I have been through this a few times. I remember lying in bed and bouncing possible names back and forth, we consulted baby name books, talked about the meanings of names, and considered family names. When we were expecting our first child, Pam's dad graciously told us that we shouldn't feel compelled to use the name Herman. We thanked him. During the naming process, I tended to go with whatever sounded good to me, while Pam considered every aspect of possible names including what it meant in ancient languages and how it fit in the sentence, "The honorable judge [blank] presiding." As you can imagine, most of the time Pam's sensibility and wisdom prevailed. Our children are Robert, Lauren, Katherine, Andrew and Lukas. Of those, I named Ryan and Julia. Let me explain: Ryan was my choice for our third child. The ultrasound technician said that she wasn't sure that she could tell what gender we should plan for, but I pushed her for an answer. "Well," she said, "if I had to make a call, I'd say it's a boy." That was enough for me, and we settled on the name Ryan Daniel for our little guy, the name I chose. Of course Pam, who admittedly was more closely connected to the baby during pregnancy than I was, claims to have had a sense all along that the baby was in fact a girl. When the baby was born they moved it over to the other side of the delivery room to give some urgent attention and Pam asked, and I quote, "Is she a boy?" Doctor Jewell said that the delivery happened so fast and the neonatal team moved in so quickly that he hadn't even looked to see. Then a nurse said, "we only have a little girl over here." Welcome Katherine. And, Katherine has been a wonderful joy for nearly 16 years. Her love of music has been evident from the very beginning. In fact, here's that hard-to-read ultrasound picture that I told you about. I guess I can't blame the technician for not being sure.

现在对我来说，作为五个孩子的父亲，这个主题是特别合适的。期待一个新的儿子或女儿的到来最兴奋的部分之一，是爸爸妈妈关于孩子命名的交谈。我的妻子帕姆和我几次经历过这一点。我记得躺在床上，来回争论可能的

名字，我们咨询了宝宝名字的书，谈到名字的含义，并参考家庭里面其他人的名字。当我们期待我们的第一个孩子，帕姆的父亲亲切地告诉我们，我们不应该感到有压力使用 **Herman** 这个名字。我们向他表示感谢。在命名过程中，我倾向于听起来好听的名字，而帕姆考虑到名字的各个方面，包括在古代语言是什么意思，以及在“尊敬的法官[空白]”句子里听起来是否合适（如果自己孩子以后做法官的话）。你可以想像，大部分的时间帕姆的感性与智慧占了上风。我们的孩子们名字是：罗伯特，劳伦，凯瑟琳，安德鲁和卢卡斯。其中，我给莱恩和朱莉娅起了名字。让我来解释一下：莱恩是我的给我们的第三个孩子起的名字。当时 **B** 超技术人员说，她无法判定性别，但我强求她给一个答案。“好吧，”她说，“如果我不得不做个判定，我会说这是个男孩。”这是对我来说足够了，我们于是命名了丹尼尔·瑞安为我们的生活，是我选择的名字。当然帕姆，诚然在怀孕期间比我是更紧密地连接到宝宝，声称一直有一个感觉婴儿实际上是一个女孩。当婴儿出生，他们把它移到了产房的另一面给予一定的紧急处理时帕姆问，我在此引用，“她是一个男孩吗？”医生朱厄尔说，生产发生的这么快，新生儿团队动作如此之快，他甚至没有来得及看。然后，护士说，“我们只有一个小女孩在这里。”就这样，欢迎凯瑟琳。而且，凯瑟琳在 16 年里带给我们无尽的喜悦。她对音乐的热爱从一开始就是显而易见的。事实上，这里就是那张难以读懂的，我跟你说过的超声图像。我想我不能责怪技术人员不被肯定。

The next time that we settled on my choice for a name was when we were expecting Julia. In the first years of our marriage, we watched the amazing journey of friends who traveled to Romania to adopt twins out of the desperate orphanages that had been featured on 60 Minutes, starting a growing movement of US families to adopt internationally. Pam and I loved Ray and Jan's heart and we agreed that we would adopt "someday." 下一次使用我起的名字是当我们期待朱莉娅的时候。在我们刚刚结婚的时候，我们在电视“60 分钟”节目里看到朋友谁前往罗马尼亚收养孤儿院里的双胞胎，从而开始了美国家庭收养国际儿童的热潮。帕姆和我喜欢雷和扬的热心肠，我们同意，我们在“某一天”也会收养。

After Rob and Lauren and Katherine came along, Pam came to me one day and said, "we've always known that we would adopt some day, maybe we should start praying about when 'someday' will be." I agreed and we prayed together and separately, not only about when but also about from where. We decided to pray about which country to adopt from separately and seek God's direction. Our family was delighted to find that God placed China clearly on both of our hearts. We decided confidently to begin the adoption process from China. I should say, mostly our family was delighted with the choice of China. One hold out was our oldest child, Rob. He was excited about a new addition to the family, but was advocating as strongly as he could for adoption from another country, Guatemala for instance. The reason, argued as brilliantly as any eleven year-old could argue, was "I already have two sisters and if we adopt from China, I'll get another sister. I really want a brother." His logic was sound. At the time, 95% of international adoptions from China were little girls. The chances of getting the hoped for brother were very low indeed.

有了罗布，劳伦和凯瑟琳之后，帕姆有一天来找我，说：“我们一直都知道，我们有一天会收养，也许我们应该为此开始祷告”。我同意了，我们在一起或分开祷告，不仅为何时也为了从何处。我们决定单独祷告，寻求神的带领要我们从哪个国家收养。我们家很高兴地发现，神很明显的把中国放在我们两个的心里。我们满有信心的开始从中国领养程序。我应该说，我们的家庭大部分都很高兴选择中国。一个不太愿意的是我们最大的孩子，罗布。他很兴奋家庭会增添一个新成员，但强烈要求从其他国家领养，比如危地马拉。究其原因，虽然他的论据对于一个 11 岁孩子来讲已经非常出色，是“我已经有两个姐姐，如果我们从中国收养，我会得到另外一个妹妹。我真的想要一个弟弟”。他的逻辑是合理的。当时，95% 来自中国的国际收养的是小女孩。收养一个弟弟的可能性是确实非常非常很低。

But we were sure that God was calling us to China, so we explained to Rob that we needed to follow where we were being led. He said he understood, but said that he was going to pray for a boy. He asked us not to decide

on a girls name, we did, Julia Meilynne. He asked us not to paint the room girly colors, on this point, we waited, careful not to dismiss his prayers for a brother. This became a fairly regular topic of conversation in our family, every time Pam would buy another frilly dress, he would object - respectfully of course. Rob was good tempered about it, but was unrelenting in his desire for a brother and he was confident that his prayers would be answered.

但我们确信，上帝在召唤我们去中国，所以我们向罗布解释，我们需要遵循神的带领。他说，他理解，但他说，他要祷告神赐给一个男孩。他问我们不要决定一个女孩的名字，但我们已经做了，朱莉娅-梅林。他要我们不要把房间漆成女孩的颜色，在这一点上，考虑到他想要一个弟弟的祷告，我们决定等待。这成为我们家比较经常的话题，每次帕姆会再买褶边裙，他会反对-当然非常彬彬有礼的。罗布在这件事上有好脾气，但不屈不挠的他希望有一个弟弟，他相信，他的祷告会被应允。

Then, several months into the adoption process - a process that took a little over a year at the time - something remarkable happened. One morning, Pam was praying for each of the kids, which she does often, and she felt God ask her a very clear question: "what would it do for your young son's faith if I answered his prayer for a brother?" That question instantly changed her heart. From that moment, she began hoping that God would do just that and give us a boy.

然后，进入收养程序几个月之后 - 这个过程通常都会花一年多的时间- 一件很不一般的事情发生了。一天早上，帕姆在为每一个孩子祷告，这是她经常做的，她觉得上帝问她一个非常明确的问题：“如果我应允了他的想要小弟弟的祈祷—这对他的信息会有什么帮助？”这个问题立刻改变了她的心意。从那一刻开始，她开始希望上帝能做到这一点，给我们一个男孩。

The answer came one early Fall afternoon in 2004. Pam, with Katherine in tow, had just picked Rob up from school when her cell phone rang. It's one of those kind gifts of God's grace that Pam and Rob were together when they got the news that we had been matched with a little one-year-old boy. Man do I wish I had a video of the happy dance that they did right there in the livingroom! I offered the two of them the opportunity to come up here this morning and recreate it, but they both declined.

久等的答案终于在 2004 年一个初秋的下午到来。帕姆，带着凯瑟琳，刚刚把罗布从学校接上，她的手机响了。这是神的恩典的礼物，帕姆和罗布在一起，他们得到了我们被匹配上了一直期待的一岁的小男孩的消息。我多么希望我有他们那天在客厅做快乐的舞蹈的视频！我给他们两个人机会今天上午来这里重新再现一下，但他们都拒绝了。

A few weeks later, Pam and I traveled to China and returned with Andrew Kevin, a name by the way that we let Rob have a big say in choosing. And if you've ever doubted that God has a sense of humor, when they first placed Andrew in our arms, he was wearing these. (I'll hold up a pair of small socks) I understand that you can't read what's on these socks, so I'll tell you: "Property of the Chicago Cubs!" We promptly changed his socks and gave him his first Cardinals cap. From that very first moment, Andrew has been a constant reminder of God's great love for us.

几个星期后，帕姆和我前往中国，与安德鲁·凯文一同返回，这个名字是我们让罗布有一个大的发言权选择的。如果你曾经怀疑过神有幽默感，当他们第一次把安德鲁放在我们的手臂里，他穿着这个。（我会举起一双小袜子）我知道你看不懂这些袜子上写的是什麼，所以我会告诉你：“芝加哥小熊队的财产”（上周小熊队刚刚击败圣路易红雀队）我们立即换下了他的袜子，并给他戴上他第一个红雀队帽。从最初的一刻开始，安德鲁一直是神对我们的大爱不断提醒。

It's been more than eleven years, but I've never gotten over that question that was put to Pam early one morning: what would it do for his young faith if I answered his prayer? This question came rushing back to me

as I thought about the scripture that we come to today, and about how God uses prayer to build the faith of His children.

已经十一年过去了，但我从来没有得到过那天早上神给帕姆的问题的答案：我如果应允了他的祷告，这会对他的信息有什么作用？这个问题就一直冲击我，我想到了我们今天要读的经文，想到上帝是如何使用的祷告来建造他的孩子们的信心。

Jesus is wrapping up what we call the sermon on the mount. His discourse starts with the assurance of blessings because the kingdom of heaven is at hand, in fact the kingdom of heaven is present in him. He tells the crowd that even the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and those who are left longing for righteousness will be blessed because they have access to the kingdom of heaven through him. Then he teaches them all what the kingdom of heaven is like. As he's finishing up, he begins to teach them about prayer.

耶稣正要结束我们所说的登山宝训。他从祝福的确据讲起，因为天国就在眼前，其实天国就存在于他里面。他告诉人们，虚心的人，哀恸的人，温柔的人，饥渴慕义的人就有福了，因为他们可以借着祂（耶稣）进入天国。然后，他教导人们天国的样式是怎样的。当他完成了，他开始向他们传授如何祷告。

Turn with me to Matthew chapter 7, beginning with verse 7. You can find it on page 685 in the Bible in front of you. If you don't have a Bible of your own, then keep that one — go ahead and take it home. And, that's not just because I don't work for the church, we really would be delighted if you needed a Bible and we could provide it.

请跟我一起翻到马太福音第 7 章，从第 7 节开始。你可以在你面前的圣经 685 页找到它。如果你没有自己的一本圣经，你可以保留那本圣经，把它带回家。而且，这不是因为我不在教会工作，我们真的会非常高兴在您需要时提供给您一本圣经。

Here's what Jesus says, *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

耶稣是这么说的：“你们祈求，就给你们；寻找，就寻见；叩门，就给你们开门。因为，凡祈求的，就得着；寻找的，就寻见；叩门的，就给他开门。”

It's clear from Christ's parables of the neighbor seeking bread at midnight in Luke 11, or the persistent widow before the judge in Luke 18 that He isn't saying, "ask once and drop it, seek for a little while and give up, knock three times and go away." Christ is saying, "ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking." This is how a child prays. I got to witness this type of persistence first hand in Rob's prayers for a brother.

很明显，从耶稣的比喻里面，例如路加福音 11 章邻居借饼，或路加福音 18 章寡妇和不义的官，他不是说，“问一次就离开，争取一小会儿就放弃，敲门三次就走开。”基督是说：“问及不断地问，寻求和保持寻求，敲门并一直敲门。”这是一个孩子怎么祷告的。我从罗布要小弟弟的祷告里面第一手见证了这种持久性祈祷。

The Obstacle of Low Expectations 低期望造成的障碍

The thing in this passage that I find strange is that Jesus finds it necessary to convince those he's teaching that they should ask or seek or knock at all. I think it might be because they are so new to kingdom living that even the thought of access to God is hard to conceive of. Their life outside of the kingdom, disconnected and separated from God has resulted in what I would call deeply ingrained low expectations. These low expectations are hard to overcome or even think beyond. They're stuck in an old mindset and Christ is calling them to a new way of living, inviting them to think differently, encouraging them to connect with Him and be bold, or at least less timid about asking for His help in their areas of need.

我觉得奇怪的是，耶稣认为有必要说服那些被教导的人 - 他们应该问，寻求或敲门。我想可能是因为他们刚刚进入国度生活，直接与神接触是很难想象的事情。他们的国度之外的生活，与神关系断裂，与神隔绝造成了我所说的根深蒂固的低期望。这些低期望是很难克服，甚至很难想象超越的。他们被困在一个传统的心态里面，基督来呼招他们进入一种新的生活方式，邀请他们用新的方式思考，鼓励他们跟他和大胆连接，或至少在自己的需要上面不要太胆小请求帮助。

I have some experience with this. Shortly after we adopted Andrew, Lauren came to us and said, "My heart is broken by the thought of all those orphans. I want to go to China and work in an orphanage and hold babies." Like all good parents, we said, "No." Actually, what we said was "that's a great thought honey, we love your heart, but you're only ten, maybe when you're older."

我有这方面的一些经验。我们收养安德鲁不久，劳伦来找我们，说：“那些孤儿让我心碎。我想去中国，在孤儿院工作，照顾婴儿。”“像所有的好父母，我们说，”不行。“其实，我们说的是”亲爱的，这是一个好主意，我们喜欢你的爱心，但你只有十岁，也许当你长大可以考虑。“

I wish I had time to tell you more of this story. About Lauren never letting go of that desire that God had stirred in her heart. About Pam and Lauren signing up with Visiting Orphans and taking a trip to an orphanage in China nearly seven years later. About Lauren's fears on that first day entering the orphanage, her obedience in the midst of those fears, and how that night, back at the hotel, she laid her head on Pam's lap and said, "best day ever!" I wish I could tell you all about Lauren returning to the same orphanage with me a year after that. About the many ways that God worked in my heart, even though I thought that our family was full and finished, to begin another adoption and bring home a four-year-old boy (yes, another boy from China - talk about abundant answers to a child's prayer). Oh, and I could tell you about our whole family traveling to China to pick him up. And the stranger who prayed every Thursday for more than two years for a little boy she'd met once on a college trip to an orphanage, only to see that same boy in our family photos. I could go on and on about the profound impact that has come from one ten-year-old asking her mommy and daddy if she could go to China and hold babies in the orphanage. But I don't have the time, and anyway, this is not a story of asking, it's a story of not asking.

我希望我有时间告诉你更多的这个故事。关于劳伦从不放手神放在她心里的感动。有关帕姆和劳伦近七年之后参与”关怀孤儿“出远门去探访中国的孤儿院。以及劳伦在第一天进入孤儿院时的担心，她在那些恐惧之中顺服，以及如何那天晚上，回到酒店，她把她的头放在帕姆的腿上说：“今天是有史以来最好的一天！”我希望可以告诉你劳伦和我一年以后回到那所孤儿院的故事。再就是关于神在我的心里动工，尽管我认为我们的家庭已经满员也不会再有加添，我们又开始收养另一个小孩并带回家一个四岁的男孩（是的，来自中国的另一个男孩 - 说起神对一个孩子的祈祷丰盛的回应）。哦，我还要告诉你我们全家前往中国接他。劳伦在上大学的时候曾经在一个中国孤儿院看到过这个男孩并且为他持续祷告两年多的时间，万万没有想到同一个孩子会出现在我们家庭相片里面。我可以告诉更多关于你这个曾经告诉自己父母梦想去中国孤儿院照顾孤儿的 10 岁小孩子所受到的深深的震撼，但是我没有时间了，反正这不是”求问“的故事，这是一个”不求问“的故事。

A few months after we got Lukas Kevin home - that's right, the two youngest boys share my name - we learned something sad and deeply concerning. We learned that Lukas was going hungry and not telling us. At meals, we would give him a normal size portion for a four year-old, and he would eat it. He never asked for seconds and he never asked for snacks during the day - we didn't know he was hungry because he wouldn't tell us. The first four years of his life, before joining his forever family, had resulted in some deeply ingrained low expectations of the people that were caring for him, low expectations that were hard to overcome or even think beyond. I can still hear Pam almost scolding, almost pleading with Luke, "you have to tell me when you want something to eat, the rule is you can eat whenever you are hungry, please tell me."

几个月后，我们把卢卡斯·凯文带回了家-是的，这两个年轻的男孩分享我的名字-我们学到了一些很伤心，让我们深深忧虑的事情。我们了解到，卢卡斯经常饿了，但没有告诉我们。吃饭时，我们会给他一个四岁孩子正常的食物量，他会吃完。他从来没有要求第二份，他从来没有在白天要求吃零食 - 我们不知道他是饿了，因为他不会告诉我们。他的生命的前四年，在加入我们的家庭之前的生活，导致了他对照顾他的人的低期望值，这是很难克服的，甚至很难超越的。我仍然能听到帕姆几乎对卢克的哀求，“当你想吃点东西的时候，你一定要告诉我，我们的规矩是只要饿了就可以吃，请告诉我。”

Then after he had been home about a year, we found that he was having trouble going to sleep or staying asleep. Instead of coming to our room for comfort, we learned that he was lying in his bed and crying because he couldn't sleep. We don't know how long this went on. We only know that his old pre-adoption mindset kept him in his bed, lonely, afraid and unconsolated. Now, parenting five kids over twenty-three years has come with its share of heartaches, and certainly knowing that my beloved son was suffering and that he continued to suffer instead of coming to me or his mom for comfort is among the most painful experiences that I've ever had. And, as painful as it was, we've learned that this transitional struggle is extremely normal for children moving from a pre-adoption reality to a forever family as they adjust to their new circumstances.

他回家一年之后，我们了解到他遇到了入睡的麻烦或保持睡眠。他没有来到我们的房间寻求安慰，他却一个人躺在床上哭，因为他无法入睡。我们不知道这个已经持续多久。我们只知道，他的收养之前的心态让他孤单的呆在他的床上，害怕和没有宽慰。你想，我们在超过二十三年时间里养育五个孩子，期间必有很多头痛的事，但是，其中最让我们痛苦的是当我们知道我们心爱的儿子自己受罪，却没有来找我还是他的妈妈寻求安慰。而且，我们也非常痛苦地了解到，这种过渡期的挣扎对于一个从收养前的状态过渡到自己永远的家孩子来讲是非常正常的，因为他们需要适应新家的环境。

Tonight when we put Luke to bed, if it's like most nights, we'll tuck him in and pray with him, we'll give him kisses and tell him how much we love him, we'll turn out the light and go into the other room. Then, *thud*, the sound of his feet hitting the ground as he jumps out of his bunk bed. "I'm thirsty," or "I forgot my blanket," or "can I have another kiss?" And sometimes, even, "I'm hungry, can I have a snack?" He's learning.

今晚，当我们带卢克去睡觉，如果是像大多数晚上，我们把他的被子盖好，并和他一起祷告，我们会给他亲吻，并告诉他我们多么爱他，我们会关了灯并进入另一个房间。然后，轰的一声，我们可以听到他的脚撞击地面，他跳出自己的床。“我渴了”，或者“我忘了我的毯子”，或者“我可以再要一个吻吗？”有时候，甚至是“我饿了，我可以吃一个点心吗？”他在成长。

And so, when I read Christ's words, where he says: *"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?"* I can say with certainty, "Never! I will give my son all the bread he needs and any fish he asks for, and all the Panda Express Orange Chicken too for that matter!" Christ's words have landed on me and they've landed with weight. In fact, just like that first century audience, he has me set up. Right where He wants me. Here comes the close: *"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"*

所以，当我看到基督的话，他说：“你们，如果他的儿子求饼，反给他石头呢？或者，如果他求鱼，反给他蛇吗？”我可以非常肯定地说，“从来不会！我会给我的儿子他需要的所有的面包，他要的所有的鱼，和所有的熊猫快餐的甜酸鸡块！”基督的话都落在我心里，且掷地有声。事实上，就像一世纪的观众，他为我准备好了，且在祂认为好的地方。这里是耶稣如果结束的：“你们虽然不好，尚且知道拿好东西给儿女，何况你们在天上的父，岂不更把好东西给求他的人麼？！”

So Why Don't We Ask? 那我们为什么不求？

So, why don't we ask? I want to propose three possible reasons that come directly from scripture - and since this is my first, and possibly only time to speak in "big church", sticking close to scripture seems like a good idea.

那么，我们为什么不求？我想建议直接来自圣经三个可能的原因- 既然这是我的第一次，并说在“大教堂”可能是唯一的一次，坚持贴近经文似乎是一个不错的主意。

The first possible reason is that we haven't yet entered into God's family, we're still living our pre-adoption life. If this is the case, then scripture is full of invitation. One of my favorites is John 1 verses 12 and 13, *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* Today would be a wonderful day for you to make that decision. I hope you'll hear that invitation and respond.

第一个可能的原因是，我们还没有进入到神的家里，我们还住被收养前的生命里面。如果是这种情况，那么经文充满邀请。我最喜欢的是约翰福音 • 1 章 12 和 13，*“凡接待他的、就是信他名的人、他就赐他们权柄、作 神的儿女。这等人不是从血气生的、不是从情欲生的、也不是从人意生的、乃是从 神生的。”*“今天将是为您作出这样的决定成为美好的一天。我希望你能听到邀请，并作出回应。

But what about those of us who have received Him, who have believed in his name, who have been given the right to become children of God? What about us who as Christians share Christ's name? Why don't we ask? 但对于我们这些已经信祂的人，就是相信了耶稣的名字，就被赋予成为上帝的儿女的权柄？我们谁作为基督徒得享基督的名份 - 我们为什么不寻求祷告？

The second reason that we don't ask is that our pre-adoption life has produced some deeply ingrained low expectations that are hard to overcome or even think beyond. In Ephesians, chapter 1 verses five and six, Paul says, "Long, long ago he [God] decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son." [Ephesians 1:5-6](#) MSG. But as God's children, we're still learning the habits of asking and trusting and depending. Too often, instead of asking and seeking and knocking, we find ourselves lying in our beds alone and afraid and uncomforted.

我们不祈求的第二个原因是，我们的被收养前的生活已经产生了一些根深蒂固的低期望值，是很难克服，甚至很难超越。在以弗所书，第一章的经文五，六节，保罗说：*“又因爱我们、就按着自己意旨所喜悦的、预定我们、借着耶稣基督得儿子的名分、使他荣耀的恩典得着称赞。这恩典是他在爱子里所赐给我们的。”*但作为神的儿女，我们仍然在学习祈求，信任和依赖神的习惯。很多时候，与其祈求，寻求和敲们，我们发现自己躺在床上，孤独和害怕，没有依靠和安慰。

The third reason that we don't ask is that we've convinced ourselves that we're not good enough. Christ hits this head on when he says, "if you, then, though you are evil..." Remember that this is the same sermon where he reminded those listening of just how evil their hearts truly were, by going beyond the fact that they may not have committed murder or adultery or had a divorce. Instead he calls out the hate and lust and contempt that fill their hearts and shows them that these are just as evil. They know they're evil. They've been reminded that they're evil. But think for a moment about how Christ *doesn't* finish this sentence. He doesn't say, *"...how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who stop being evil."* He says in almost the same breath, I know you are evil and I know that your Father in Heaven will give good gifts to those who ask him." He knows that you and I are not perfect, that's no surprise to him. And still he says to us, *"...everyone who asks receives...."*

我们不祈求的第三个原因是，我们让自己相信，我们做得不够好。基督给这个想法迎头一击，他说，“你们虽然不好.....”记住，这是在同一篇讲道里面，他提醒那些听道的人，他们内心有多么邪恶，虽然他们可能没有犯

谋杀罪或通奸或离婚。相反，他指出他们的心里充满邪恶，仇恨，欲望和蔑视，是一样的邪恶。他们知道他们是邪恶的。他们一直在被提醒他们是邪恶的。但想一下，基督是如何没有说完这句话 - 他没有说，“.....何况在天上的父一定会给悔改的人更多好东西。”反而，他说，在几乎同一句话，“我知道你是不好的，我知道你们在天上的父会把好东西给求告他的人。”他知道你和我是不完美的，这于他并不奇怪。他仍然对我们说：“.....你们祈求的就得着.....。”

I can hear one objection rising up — I've asked, you say, and God hasn't answered. How can I believe Christ's invitation to keep asking if I haven't seen the answers I've already asked for?

我能听到有人提出异议- ”你会说，我祈求过了，神没有回答。如果我还没有看到我已经祈求的东西，我怎么能相信基督的邀请去不断地祈求呢？ “

James addresses this issue in chapter 4 verse 3 when he says, “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” I think that, for me at least, this is a significant issue. At my core, there is still a selfish streak - a remnant perhaps from my childhood. God knows this, too. He won't give me things that are bad for me or that might weaken my faith and dependence instead of strengthening it. I like how CS Lewis addresses this question. In his response he captures the image of children like you and me being given access to the unlimited power of God. Here's what Lewis says; “Prayers are not always - in the crude, factual sense of the word - 'granted'. This is not because prayer is a weaker kind of causality, but because it is a stronger kind. When it `works' at all it works unlimited by space and time. That is why God has retained a discretionary power of granting or refusing it; except on that condition prayer would destroy us.” God certainly doesn't want to destroy us. Just one more thought on this point. Henry Blackaby says that instead of praying that God would bless what we're doing, we should look for what God is blessing and start doing that. I really feel that one of the reasons that we've experienced so many answers to prayers during the course of our two adoptions is because we've actually started doing what we had already seen God blessing in others.

雅各在雅各书第 4 章第 3 节回答了这个问题，他说，“你们求也得不到、是因为你们妄求、要浪费在你们的宴乐中。”我认为，至少对我来说，这是一个巨大的问题。在我的心底，还有一个自私的残余 - 这个残余可能来自我的童年。神也知道这个。他不会给我一个对我不好的东西，或者一个东西来削弱对神的信心和依赖。我喜欢 CS 刘易斯是如何诠释这个问题的。在他的回复里面，他阐述了这样一个画面 - 像你和我，可以摄取有无限能力的神。以下是刘易斯说的；“祷告并不总是 - 在最原始，最真实的这个词的真实意义上 - '被应允’”。这并不是因为祷告是一个较弱的因果关系，而是因为它是一个强大的一种。当它'应验'时，空间和时间都无法限制。这就是为什么上帝保留应允或拒绝它的自由裁量权；但在这种条件下祷告可能会毁了我们。“上帝当然并不想摧毁我们。在这一点上还有一个想法。亨利-布莱可比说，不是祈祷上帝会保守我们在做什么，我们应该寻求什么是上帝的祝福，并开始这样做。我真的觉得，在我们两个孩子的收养过程中，我们已经经历了这么多的祷告得应允，其中一个原因是因为我们我们已经看到了上帝带给别人的祝福之后，自己已经开始做了。

Okay, We Should Ask, But What Should We Ask For? 好吧，我们要祈求，但是求什么呢？

So, what do we ask for? In *The Divine Conspiracy*, one of my favorite books of all time, author Dallas Willard says, “Prayer is Basically Request.” He looks at the Lord's Prayer in both Matthew and Luke, and breaks it into six sections: the first section being a respectful address, “Our Father, the one in the heavens.” This respectful address begins the prayer by putting us in proper relation to God as our Father and we as his dependent children. This address is followed by five different requests.

因此，我们要求什么？在”神的阴谋“，我一生最喜欢的一本书之一，作者达拉斯-威拉德说：“祷告就是请求。”他看了马太福音和路加福音里面的主祷文，并把它分成六个部分：第一部分是一个尊敬，“我们的在天上

的父。”祷告以这个尊称开始，把我们和父神的正确的关系建立：神是我们的父亲，我们是他的受抚养的子女。之后是五个不同的请求。

The first request in the Lord's Prayer is that the name of God would be regarded with the utmost possible respect and endearment. Willard says, "This request is based upon the deepest need of the human world. Human life is not about human life. Nothing will go right in it until the greatness and goodness of its source and governor is adequately grasped. His very name is then held in the highest possible regard. Until that is so, the human compass will always be pointing in the wrong direction, and individual lives as well as history as a whole will suffer from constant and fluctuating disorientation. Candidly, that is exactly the condition we find ourselves in."

在主祷文的第一个请求就是上帝的名将被人奉为最大可能的尊敬和钟爱。威拉德说，“这一要求是基于人类世界的最根本的需要。人的生命不只是人类自己的生活。直到人类的创造者和管理者的大能和慈爱被我们抓住，什么都不会走对。他的名字被高举。在此之前，人类的指南针总是会指向错误的方向，个人生活以及人类历史作为一个整体将遭受不断的波动和迷失方向。坦率的说，这正是我们发现自己现在所处的状态。”

The second request is also for the whole world, specifically that his kingdom would fully come on earth. This request reflects the child's confidence that the best possible situation would be the one in which God's kingdom would be fully realized in every home, playground, city street, workplace, school, etc. But, also in every heart.

第二个请求也是为整个世界，特别是祂的国度全面降临在这个世界上。这一请求反映了孩子的信心，最好的情型是一个在神的国度将在每一个家庭，操场上，城市街道，工作场所，学校，等等得到充分体现。但是，也更是在每一个人心。

The requests then become more personal, with the final three being: That our needs for today be met today; That our sins be forgiven, not held against us; And, that we not be permitted to come under trial or to have bad things happen to us.

下面的请求将变得更加个性化，与最后的三个是：满足我们今天的需要；我们的罪得赦免，没有因罪定罪；而且，我们不会被允许受到试探或有不好的事情发生在我们身上。

It's these personal requests that can sometimes make us feel uncomfortable. Willard tells about a couple who were shocked when he asked them how they were praying about a business matter. It seemed to them too practical, too day-to-day, even too self-serving. But he goes on to warn, "Prayer simply *dies* from efforts to pray about "good things" that honestly do not matter to us. The way to get to meaningful prayer for those good things is to start praying for what we are truly interested in. The circle of our interests will inevitably grow in the largeness of God's love." In other words, start where you are. Pray, asking for what is important to you today, and as you grow up in Christ, what's important to you today will grow bigger too. If you think back to our circle, you see that as we mature spiritually, our prayers will mature as well.

正是这些个人的请求，有时会令我们感到不舒服。威拉德讲述了一对夫妇，当他问他们如何祷告有关生意问题时，他们非常震惊。在他们看来，这个太实用，太接近生活，甚至过于利己。但他接着警告说，“如果我们只是为了好事祷告，那么这个祷告是死的。获得真正有意义的祷告，要从我们真正感兴趣的事情开始。我们的关心范围将不可避免地在上帝的博爱里扩展。”换句话说，从你所在的地方开始。为今天对你最重要的事情祷告，而当你在基督里成长起来的时候，什么是对你重要的也会变得更大了。如果你想回到我们的基督徒成长圆圈，你可以看到随着我们灵命上的成熟，我们的祷告也会成熟起来。

So, friends, how will we respond to Christ's encouragement and invitation? What do we do with his promises that, "all who ask will receive, all who seek will find, and to all who knock the door will be opened?" How does His assurance that our "Father in heaven will give good gifts to those who ask," make a difference in our lives? 所以，朋友们，我们将如何为基督的鼓励和邀请作出回应？我们面对他的承诺该怎么办，“因为凡祈求的、就得着．寻找的、就寻见．叩门的、就给他开门。”他的保证，我们的“天父会给赐好东西给求祂的人“使我们的生活发生变化？

What would it do for our young faith, yours and mine, if God were to answer our prayers?
如若神真的要让我们祷告成真，这会对我们的信心，你的和我的，产生什么作用呢？