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One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."







5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.'



7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'



8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.



9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.



11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?



13 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 the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

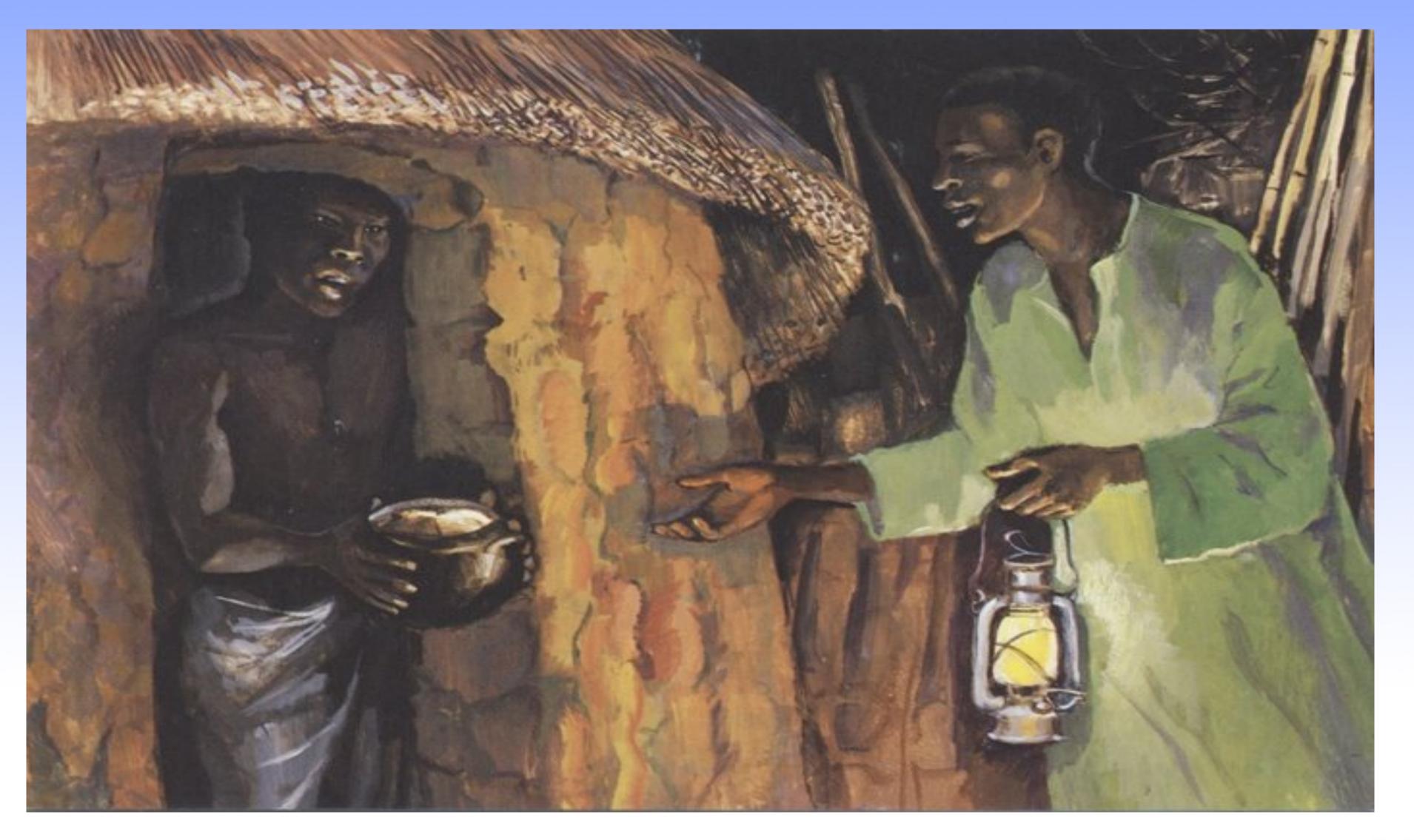




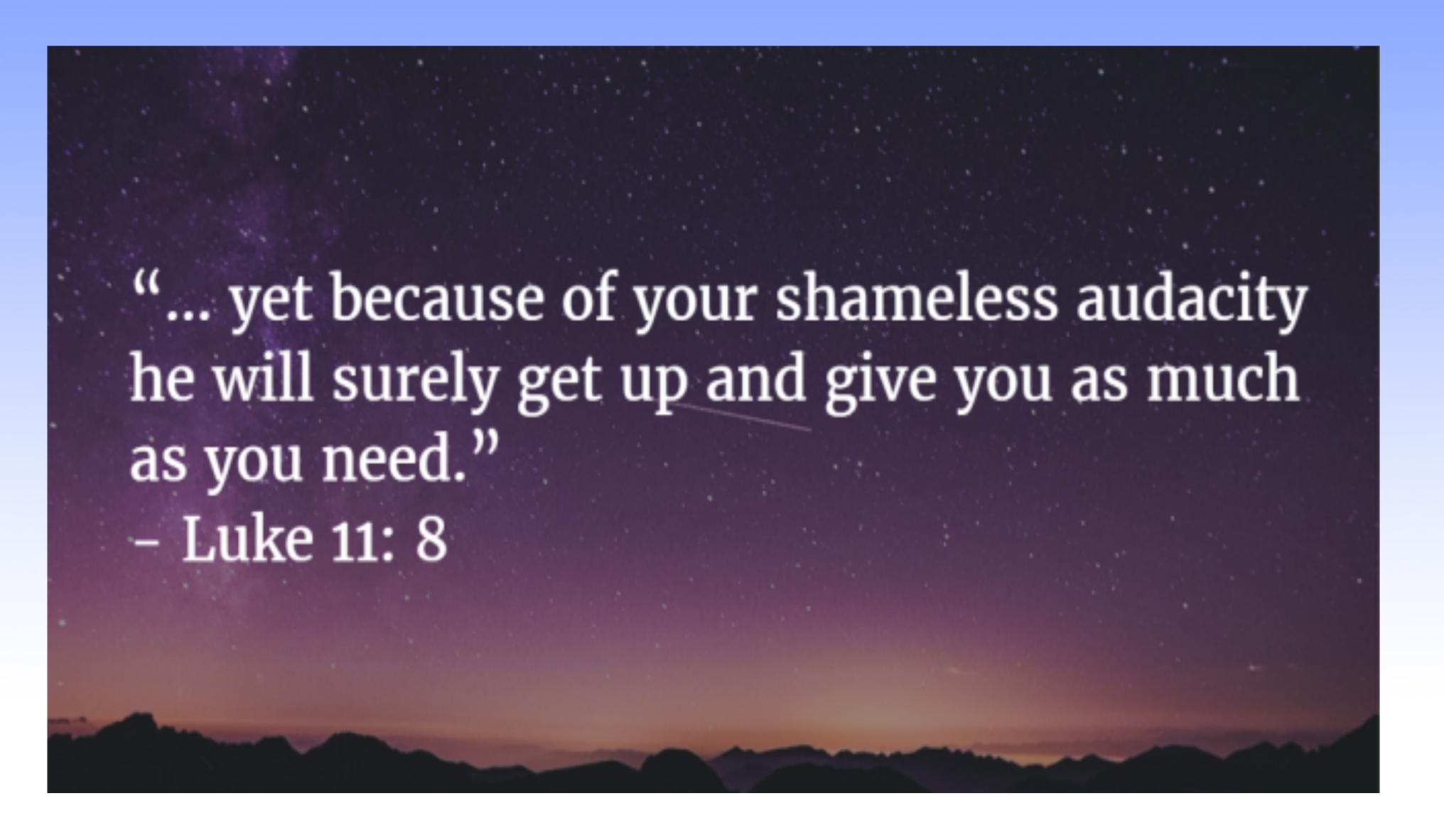














A parable begins innocently as a picture that arrests our attention and arouses our interest. But as we study the picture it becomes a mirror in which we suddenly see ourselves.



"If we continue to look by faith, the mirror becomes a window through which we see God and his truth. How we respond to that truth will determine what further truth God will teach us."

Warren Wiersbe





Who am I in this parable?



Lesson #1

We have great need and have nothing to meet that need.

I have nothing....no food to offer my guest.

Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only the person who is helpless can truly pray.



Step 1

We admitted that we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors. That our lives had become unmanageable.





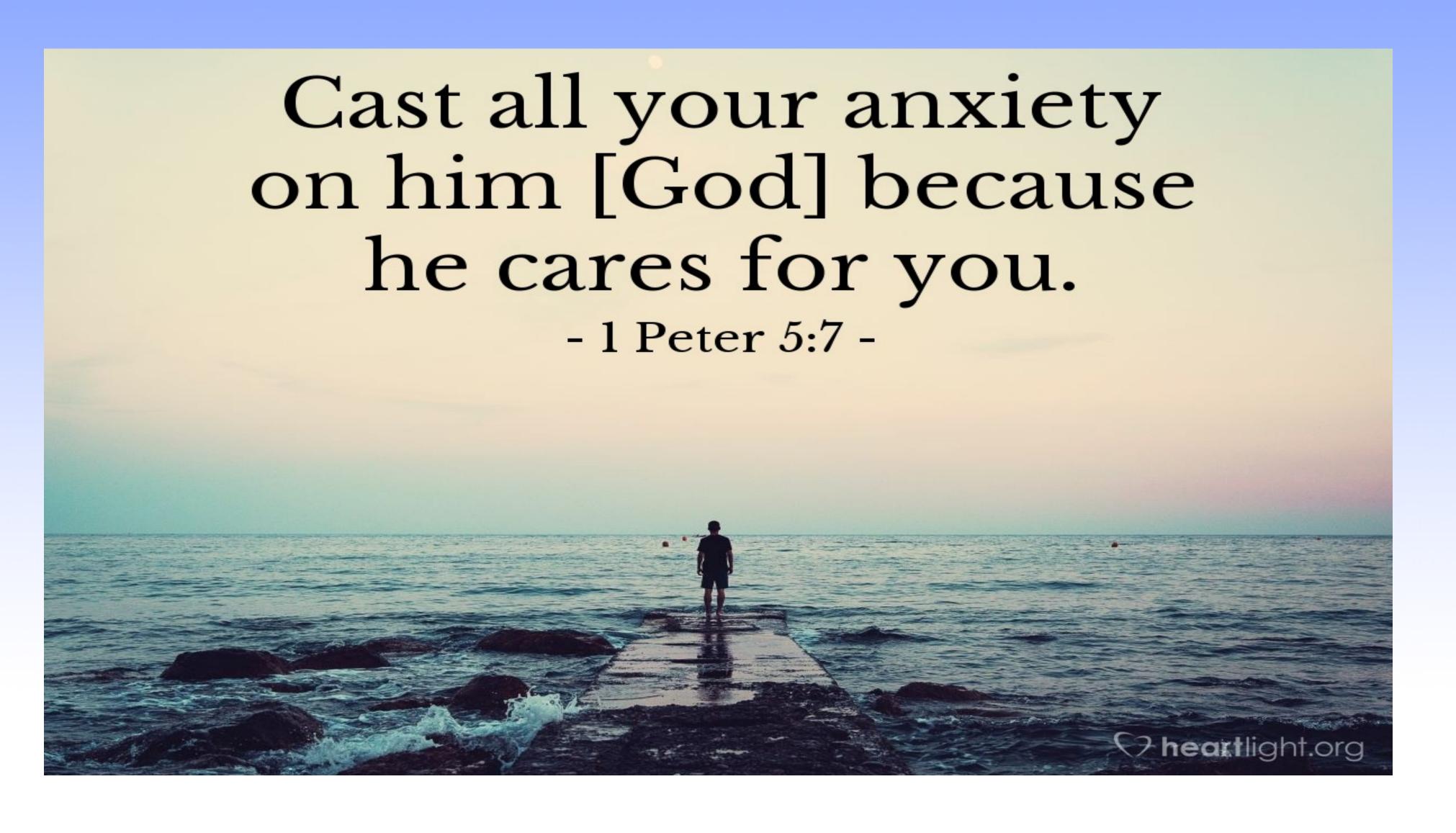








Lesson #2 The Character of God





Colonia State of the Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.









"If you sinful people know
how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more will your
heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask him."

LUKE 11:13



This idea is that our confidence in prayer should not come from us "getting it right" (i.e. knocking long enough or saying the correct words to persuade) but rather from the knowledge that the One who sometimes seems to be sleeping and unavailable will answer because of this commitment to doing what he has promised.



Lesson #3

God's response --- "How much more ..."

More than you ever dreamed....

We experience the abundant provision that comes from God.....

....everything we need.



Prayer is a means to energy (J.I. Packer). Spiritual alertness, vigor and confidence are the regular spin-off from earnest prayer on any subject.

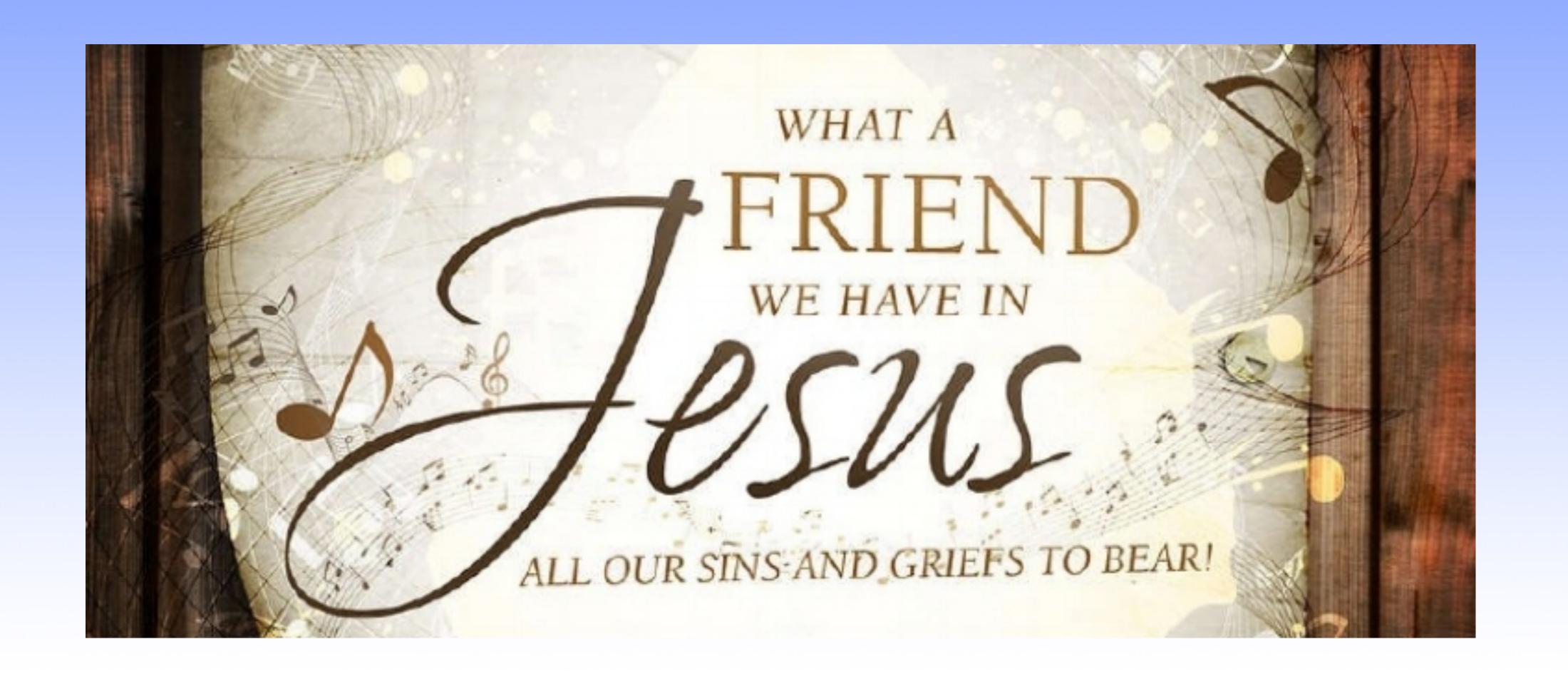
Prayer brings with it, as food does, a new sense of power and health. When we are united with Christ the life of Christ flows through us more and more.



In verse 9 Jesus sums it up----

Ask, Seek, Knock. Be confident in prayer, not because you have gotten the words right or put in the right amount of time speaking your request, but be confident because of the goodness of the One to whom you are praying.





Lyrics by Charles Scriven



What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!







