

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Genesis 18:20–32 • Colossians 2:12–14 • Luke 11:1–13



Tenacious Prayer Is Vital



The powerful theme of persistence in prayer is our focus this week. The story of Abraham interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18) highlights the importance of tenacity. Abraham repeatedly asks God to spare the city if righteous people can be found, showing us that prayer requires perseverance, even when the outcome seems uncertain!

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus teaches his disciples both the structure and spirit of prayer. When the disciples ask, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1), Jesus offers them the Lord’s Prayer, a model for praising God, seeking his will, and asking for daily needs. More than a formula, this prayer reflects the heart of Jesus’ relationship with the Father. It reminds us that prayer is not only about asking but also about aligning ourselves with God’s will.

Jesus emphasizes the need for persistence in prayer through a parable of a man who knocked on a friend’s door at midnight, asking for bread. Though initially reluctant, the owner of the house eventually responds because of the persistence of the friend’s request. Jesus uses this story to encourage us to keep asking, seeking, and knocking, trusting that God hears us and will respond in his time.

This week, consider the areas in your life that require persistent prayer—whether it’s your family, work, health, or important decisions. Like St. Monica, who prayed tirelessly for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine, we are invited to pray without ceasing. Tools like novenas, the Rosary, and the Church’s liturgical rhythms can help us stay committed to prayer. Whatever you face, pray consistently and persistently. Jesus assures us: When we ask, we will receive; when we seek, we will find; when we knock, the door will be opened. Don’t give up—keep praying with tenacity.

Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, “Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” This week, reflect on areas in your life that need persistent prayer. Consider praying a novena or adding the Rosary to your daily routine to stay consistent. Whatever you face, pray with trust and tenacity, knowing that God hears you and will respond in his perfect timing. Be tenacious in your prayer!”

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/seventeenth-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c/>

Ponder and Pray

» How can you cultivate the tenacity to keep praying, even when answers don't come immediately?

» What fears or doubts might be holding you back from persistent prayer?

» How does Jesus' invitation to ask, seek, and knock challenge your current approach to prayer? How can you pray more intentionally?

“ If you ... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?
—Luke 11:13 ”

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today's Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins' reflection, your priest's homily, your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most out of today's Mass.
