

Four prayer surprises

God is “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask.” Ephesians 3.20.

Therefore a **first** surprise must surely be this - *so often we don't ask!*

Second, Jesus based all prayer on the Fatherhood of God. Matthew 6.9.

That's no doubt quite a surprise for those with uncaring fathers. But God is not such a father.

“The Lord is kind to all who worship him” Psalm 103.13 (The Bible for Today).

Third, we teach little children to pray. We ourselves pray quietly through the day, and no doubt before going to sleep.

But, for Jesus, prayer was no gentle exercise. *It was a battlefield!*

“During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears”! Hebrews 5.7 (NIV). He “continued all night in prayer to God”! Luke 6.12. At the grave of Lazarus he wept and prayed. John 11.35-42. While praying at Gethsemane “his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground”! Luke 22.44. And at his crucifixion he prayed for his tormentors! Luke 23.34.

Fourth, Jesus, now at God's throne, “ever lives to make intercession.” Hebrews 12.2; 7.25.

Even though he's that close to God, *he's still praying!*

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It should be no surprise that the Gospels give twentyone instances of Jesus praying.