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## Desiring the Spirit, Luke 11:9-13

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### Introduction

- Today we begin a new series on the Holy Spirit.
  - Redeemer's mission is to declare the lordship of Christ over all of Acadiana. In order to do this, we must *know God*.
    - However, in Christianity, knowing God is more than just an intellectual exercise but it's experiential too.
  - We *know* God through God the Holy Spirit. He both illuminates our minds and fills our hearts with the fullness of God.

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### Asking the Father

- **First**, we are *invited* to petition *our Father*.
  - We often read and hear about terrible fathers. Therefore, some might object that it's inappropriate to think of God as a father.
    - Jesus casually throws in that our fathers are evil. Many people had failures of fathers, yet they know what their fathers should have been. Others had the privilege of wonderful fathers, despite their fathers' sins.
  - He delights in you. Provides for you. Has plans for you. Rebukes and disciplines. Leaves an inheritance.

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### Asking for the Great Gift

- **Second**, we are asking for the *greatest gift possible*.
  - Compare to Matthew 7:11. Is this a contradiction or corruption in transmission?

- He must have repeated himself, like any teacher. However, the biblical writers—guided by the Holy Spirit—have the authority to interpret what Jesus means in his sayings.
- We can also say that he gives spiritual gifts and physical gifts.
- Luke knows that the greatest of all of God’s gifts is the Holy Spirit, as he shows in Acts.
  - God refuses to give us anything without giving us himself.
    - The great sin of mankind is wanting the gifts of God without the Giver.
- Even as believers, without the Holy Spirit we cannot use our gifts well. Isn’t it possible that the gifts can corrupt us or lead us astray?

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## Asking without Fear

- **Third**, there is an extraordinary *question* to be asked...
  - Would you give your children something harmful if they asked for something good? What do you think about God then?
    - Consider how many people have rejected God because they are afraid of him. They cannot trust to put their lives in his hands.
    - Consider how many of *us* hesitate to place our lives in God’s hands. We are afraid to ask him for the greatest gift possible.