

Wednesday Refuel Matthew 7: 7-11

“Keep Asking, Seeking and Knocking”

It seems natural that Jesus is now going to move from our relationship with our fellow man to our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Vs.7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

- As we begin to look at this verse we are going to see three verbs in the present tense, ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK. Also **given**, **find** and **open** are also in the present tense.
- These three words include the ideas of want, loss, and earnestness.

O: **Ask**, and it will be **given** to you; **seek**, and you will **find**; **knock**, and it will be **opened** to you.

I: **Psalm 145:18-19** The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, **To all who call upon Him in truth** 19. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

1 **John 5:14-15** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will, He hears us**. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- When we look at the first part of this verse “Ask and it will be given to you” seems like a general statement.
- But the context of this verse makes it clear that Jesus is talking about prayer.
- Remember Earlier in this sermon Jesus had given the disciples a model prayer (Matt. 6:9–13).
- Now He assured them that God welcomes prayer, and urged them to come to Him **continuously** and **persistently**.
- This is emphasized by the present tenses in the verbs: “**keep on asking**”; “**keep on seeking**”; “**keep on knocking**” (7:7).
- Why? Because **your Father in heaven** (v. 11) delights in giving **good gifts** (cf. James 1:17) to those who persist in prayer.¹
- True prayer, persevering prayer, **acknowledges our dependence upon God**.
- When we are genuinely in need, we come to God and ask and seek and knock.
- This has been the experience of all believers time and again.
- **The very fact that we are asking, seeking, and knocking demonstrates that we are truly dependent upon God**.
- **We are His children and He is our Father**.

¹ Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 34). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- Jesus said that true prayer is prayer that really means business: it is **sincere** and **genuine** in its requests.²

Now this verse must not be taken out of context, verses 7 and 8 might seem like a blank check for believers we can get anything we ask for. But this is simply not true. God is not Santa Clause!!

It is absurd to suppose that the promise 'Ask, and it shall be given you' is an absolute pledge with no strings attached;

that 'Knock, and it will be opened to you' is an 'Open, Sesame' to every closed door without exception; and that by the **waving of a prayer wand any wish will be granted and every dream will come true.**

The idea is ridiculous. It would turn prayer into magic.

Word of faith movement

It would turn God into our servant.³

These verses must be understood in the immediate context and in light of the whole Bible's teaching on prayer.

So what seems like anything goes here are actually restricted by other passages.

- In **Psalm 66:18** "*If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened*". We learn that the person praying must have no unconfessed sin in his life. "

We as Christians must pray in faith:

- **James 1:6-8** "But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for he **who doubts** is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind :7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord :8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways".

Our prayer must be in conformity with the will of God.

- **1John 5:14-15** "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will, He hears us**. :15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him"..

Prayer must be offered persistently.

² Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [*The Gospel according to Matthew: Chapters 1:1–16:12*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 151). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide.

³ Stott, J. R. W., & Stott, J. R. W. (1985). [*The message of the Sermon on the mount \(Matthew 5-7\): Christian counter-culture*](#) (p. 188). Leicester; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- **Luke 18:1-5** Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart :2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man :3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary :4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man :5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her **continual coming she weary me.**' "
- The **parable** of the praying widow teaches **that us always to pray and not lose heart**. This is true in a general sense of all believers, and of all kinds of prayer.
- But the sense in which it is used here is prayer for God's deliverance in times of testing.
- It is praying without losing **heart** during the long, weary troubles and trials.

And we must always pray sincerely.

James 4:3 NLT And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

A:

- The truth is that the heavenly Father never spoils his children.
- He does not shower us with gifts whether we want them or not.
- Instead he waits until we recognize our need and turn to him in humility.
- This is why Jesus says *Ask, and it will be given you*, and this is why James added, 'You do not have because you do not ask.'
- Prayer, then, is the very way God himself has chosen for us to express our conscious need of him and our humble dependence on him.⁴

Vs.8. **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

O: **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

I: **Proverbs 8:17** "I love those who love me, And those who **seek me diligently will find me**".

⁴ Stott, J. R. W., & Stott, J. R. W. (1985). *The message of the Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7): Christian counter-culture* (p. 186). Leicester; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

The word “**FOR**” ; is a marker for showing cause or reason for something, also, to explain or infer something,⁵. “For everyone who asks receives.

- The previous verse gives the three commands to ask, seek, and knock.
- **In this verse**, the focus now moves to the response from the heavenly court to each of these actions. The asker receives, the seeker finds, and the knocker has the door opened to them.⁶

So now lets look at prayer.

So the big question is why is it necessary to ask and seek and knock and to keep on asking and seeking and knocking?

Why do we need to ask at all when God knows our needs even before we ask?⁷

1. Prayer teaches us to communicate and to fellowship with God, it also teaches us to trust and to seek him more and more.

Psalm 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2. Prayer teaches us to be patient and to put our hope in God.

Matthew 21:22 “**And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.**”

Staff meeting question on being patient::

3. Prayer teaches us to love God as our Father knowing that he is going to answer our prayers properly.
4. Prayer demonstrates how deeply we trust God and how much we love and depend upon Him.

⁵ Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁶ Mangum, D. (Ed.). (2020). [Lexham Context Commentary: New Testament](#) (Mt 7:7–11). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁷ Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [The Gospel according to Matthew: Chapters 1:1–16:12](#) (Vol. 1, p. 153). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide.

A person who really trusts God—who really knows he is going to receive what he has asked—will bring more and more concerns to God⁸

A:

As believers there should be nothing more exciting than knowing that our Father not only hears our prayers but answers them.

In verses 7-8 Jesus tells us to persist in pursuing God.

To often People give up after a few halfhearted efforts and come to the conclusion that God cannot be found.

But knowing God takes faith, focus, and follow-through, and Jesus assures us that we will be rewarded.

We are to never give up in your efforts to seek God.

We must Continue to ask him for more knowledge, patience, wisdom, love, and understanding.

The stronger our belief, the more likely our prayers will be in line with God's will, and then God will be happy to grant them. My prayer life is totally different from when I got saved.

So to sum this up:

Remember God's giving depends on our asking **but it is not because he is ignorant** until we inform him: **nor** because he is hesitant until we persuade him.

The reason has to do with us, not with him; the question is not whether he is ready to give, but whether we are ready to receive.

To often I see people asking for more; use me, let me do your will, open doors and then when you call on them they close the door, let me pray on that,

Tell the HF story;

Vs.9 **Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?**

O: Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

I:

Jesus is now going to ask a question from a situation from human life.

We know on the human level, that if a **son asks for bread**, his father will not **give him a stone that resembles a loaf of bread**.

No kind parent would mock his child by answering his cry for bread with a stone.

Application:

⁸ Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [*The Gospel according to Matthew: Chapters 1:1–16:12*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 153). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide.

The assurance of an answer to prayer is based on the fact that God is our Father.

If a good earthly father gives good gifts to his children and not bad ones how much more will our heavenly Father give.

Vs.10 **Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?**

O: Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

I: Again Jesus is asking a question that's looking for a negative answer.

Jesus is reinforcing the point that even in this sinful world there is no inclination to give those we love and those who depend on us a rock or a snake when they are hungry.

Application:

Sometimes we as fathers and mothers make mistakes in what we give.

We can and do give stone and serpent-like things to our children, not deliberately, but mistakenly.

We have to be careful we are not deceived by what the world calls acceptable and good.

But the true blessing for us is that God is not deceived. God gives only "good things," things which are truly wholesome and beneficial.

Vs.11 **If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

O: If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,

I: We cant overlook this point that Jesus is making;

People are evil; they are self-centered, not God-centered.

This blemishes all they do.

Nevertheless they can give good gifts to their children.

How much more, then, will the heavenly Father, who is pure goodness, give good gifts to those who ask?⁹

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⁹ Carson, D. A. (1984). [Matthew](#). In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 187). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

O: how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

I: **Note the words “how much more.”** Whatever earthly parents are, God is much more.

He is much more as a Person and as a Father.

He knows our every request; and He has the knowledge, intelligence, wisdom, and power to grant them.¹⁰

God good things to them that ask him? Not only temporary things, like meat, drink, and clothing; but all spiritual good things;

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O:

I:

A:

¹⁰ Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [*The Gospel according to Matthew: Chapters 1:1–16:12*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 153). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide.