

# Ask, Seek, Knock: How to Get Answers from God

Matthew 7:7-11

# The Hard Questions We Face

**Have you ever prayed earnestly and wondered:**

- **Do my words reach heaven?**
- Wrestling in prayer over marriage, children, and calling
- Yet silence seems to be God's response

**The Big Questions:**

- How do we know God hears us?
- How can we be certain He'll answer?

# **Our Fundamental Challenge**

**We are material beings, but God is Spirit**

**We cannot see or touch Him**

**This tempts us toward two extremes:**

**1. Abandon prayer in despair**

**2. Treat prayer like a magic formula**

**But there's another way...**

# Response

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

**Jesus calls those who follow Him to:**

- **Ask** the Father directly
- **Seek** the Father's presence through the Son
- **Knock** with commitment that perseveres

**Keep Asking, Keep Seeking, Keep Knocking**

**Greek verbs are present imperatives:**

- **Keep asking**
- **Keep seeking**
- **Keep knocking**

**This is persistent prayer, not casual requests**

**Why persistence? Prayer isn't about changing God  
- it's about changing us.**

# God Initiates, We Respond

**We don't initiate this relationship with God**

God initiates through Jesus and invites us to respond

"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." **Matthew 7:8**

**This is a covenantal promise - God has created an agreement telling us what to expect**

# Praying According to God's Covenant

**For prayer to work, it must operate how God determines:**

- When we ask:** Ask for things aligned with His will
- When we seek:** Seek Him as He has revealed Himself
- When we knock:** Knock on the correct door

**Critical Warning:** We must seek the correct God and knock on the correct door. **If prayers aren't directed according to Scripture, you risk praying to a false god**

# The Perfect Father Argument

"Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?" **Matthew 7:9-10**

**No good father gives:**

- A stone, when asked for bread (worthless and harmful)
- A serpent, when asked for fish (dangerous and deadly)

**Even fallen fathers understand what their children need**



# How Much More Our Heavenly Father

"If you then, who are 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!" **Matthew 7:11**

**Our perfect Heavenly Father has:**

- **Perfect wisdom** - knows exactly what we need before we ask
- **Perfect power** - able to provide beyond our imagination
- **Perfect timing** - His responses come at precisely the right moment
- **Perfect love** - never fails or grows weary

# **This Changes Everything**

**You don't need to wonder:**

- **If He's listening** - He is
- **If He's reluctant to help** - He isn't
- His refusals flow from the same perfect love as His provisions

**Stop treating prayer like a spiritual lottery**

**Stop approaching God tentatively**

**Your heavenly Father invites you to come boldly  
before His throne**

# The Challenge - Pray Like Knox

**Knox could pray, "Give me Scotland or I die!" with confidence**

**He knew his Father's character. Do you?**

**This week, pray like you believe these promises:**

- **Ask** God according to His will
- **Seek** His face with persistence
- **Knock** with the confidence of a beloved child

**Your confidence rests in the character of your Heavenly Father, who delights to bless you beyond comprehension**