

Matthew 7:7-11
Pursuing the Heavenly Father

Matthew 7:7-11 – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 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? 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!”

As kingdom citizens we can pursue our Heavenly Father because we are loved as sons and daughters.

Kingdom Citizens can Pursue their Heavenly Father...

I. Continually (v. 7)

A. Ask

Philippians 4:6-7 – “... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

B. Seek

J.I. Packer – “If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he doesn’t understand Christianity very well at all.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

James 1:5 – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

C. Knock

II. Confidently (v. 8)

John 16:13 – *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”*

A. Confidence is not on the “it” *being provided*; confidence is on the One who knows what “it” we need.

III. Expectantly (vv. 9-11)

A. He will provide tangibly.

B. He will provide spiritually.

Luke 11:13 – *“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

Romans 8:26-28 – *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

Ephesians 5:25-27 – *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”*

Response:

1.) Do you know God as Father?

2.) Pursue your Heavenly Father.

Intimacy with God – *“A detailed knowledge and understanding of God's heart and activity that comes from pursuing Him as our greatest treasure.”*

3.) Pursue Him continually, confidently and expectantly.