

BUILDING BLOCK #2: ASK SEEK KNOCK

Pastor Chad Gilligan | April 30, 2023

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

I. THREE KEYS TO RECEIVING FROM GOD

1. ASK

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

A. *Life in God’s Kingdom is active, not passive.*

B. *The Biblical Art of Asking*

➤ **Ask before you fight.**

James 4:2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

➤ **Ask for what is right.**

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him.

➤ **Ask as you delight.**

Psalms 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

➤ **Ask with all your might.**

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

➤ **Ask and then do right.**

1 John 3:21-22 (NLT) Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²² And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

C. God wants you to ask!

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2. SEEK

A. Seek with all of your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

B. Seek with expectancy.

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

Matthew 7:9 Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Matthew 7:10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

Matthew 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

C. You are seeking good things from a good Heavenly Father.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

➤ **God is working things for the good.**

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

➤ **The Spirit you seek is interceding for you.**

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3. KNOCK

A. Don't stop knocking!

- **Don't stop when there is no answer.**
- **Don't stop when you feel stuck.**

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

B. Remember, the key is sometimes on your side of the door.

C. Keep asking! Keep seeking! Keep knocking!