

## **Different On Purpose: From Passive to Persistent    Matthew 7:7-11**

### **Passage**

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!

### **God Invites Persistent Pursuit, Not Passive Belief**

#### ***Assertion***

- Jesus gives three escalating commands.

#### ***Possible Objection***

- But if God already knows what I need, why do I need to keep asking? Isn't that redundant or even unnecessary?

- Jeremiah 29:12-13: 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.

#### ***Application***

- Establish a daily "ask-seek-knock" prayer rhythm  
- Why It Matters: If we stop pursuing God, we miss the joy of living in daily dependence on Him.

### **Persistence Exposes What We Actually Desire**

#### ***Assertion***

- "Seek, and you will find." Seeking implies intentional pursuit. It requires focus, direction, and effort.

#### ***Possible Objection***

- But I've sought God before, and I didn't find what I was looking for. What then?

- Philippians 3:8-10 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

#### ***Application***

- Track our prayers for 7 days and evaluate our desires; write down what we consistently pray about.  
- Why It Matters: What we keep seeking reveals what we truly value, and God wants to shape our desires around Him.

## **God Responds To Persistence With Goodness, Not Indifference**

### ***Assertion***

- Jesus uses a family analogy: "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?"

### ***Possible Objection***

- Then why does it sometimes feel like I am getting stones? I've prayed, and things got harder, not better.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### ***Application***

- Reinterpret one "unanswered prayer" through God's character. Identify one prayer that feels unanswered or denied.

- Why It Matters: When we trust God's goodness, we can keep praying even when His answers don't match our expectations.

## **Persistence Is Rooted In Identity, Not Performance**

### ***Assertion***

- Jesus says: "How much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

### ***Possible Objection***

- But what if I don't feel worthy to keep asking? What if I've failed too much?

- Hebrews 4:14-16 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### ***Application***

- Begin prayer with identity before requests.

- Why It Matters: We don't have to earn God's attention; through Christ, we can approach Him confidently because He is our Father.

## **Passive Faith Misses What Persistent Faith Receives**

### ***Assertion***

- "Knock, and the door will be opened to you."

***Possible Objection***

- So are we saying if I just try harder or pray more, I'll get what I want?
- James 5:16-18 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

***Application***

- Choose one area and commit to persistent prayer for 30 days.
- Why It Matters: When we refuse to give up on prayer, we keep turning to the One who gives us wisdom, grace, and strength for whatever comes.

**Conclusion**

- What if the only thing standing between us and what God wants to do...is that we stopped one knock too soon?