

The Golden Rule

Matthew 7:7-12

Big Idea: God wants to give you good gifts; so, ask and receive his blessings.

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ 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!

¹² So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Mat 7:7-12 ESV)

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1. Ask, seek, and knock (vv. 7-8).
2. Trust God to give us good things (vv. 9-11).
3. Model God's goodness to others (v. 12).

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God's a good father, not a genie!

- i. Prayer is not bending the will of God to my will, it's bending my will to the will of God.
- ii. Praying in a certain way doesn't force God to obey.
- iii. God retains veto power to all our requests.

Jesus invited us to ask and receive.

- i. Progressive prayer.
- ii. Persistent, continual action prayer.

Ask righteously.

- i. Pray trusting God's goodness (Mt 6:31-32).
- ii. Pray knowing God hears you (1Jn 5:14; Jn 9:31).
- iii. Pray with the right motives (James 4:2-3).

Seek the kingdom of God.

- i. Seeking implies looking for something that's hidden.
- ii. Seeking helps us learn and grow closer to God.
- iii. God rewards those who seek him (Heb 11:6).

Knock persistently

- i. We knock on closed doors.
- ii. Knocking is relentless/persistent prayer.

2. Trust God to give us good things (vv. 9-11).

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God is a loving father.

- i. If we can give good gifts, God does it better (vv. 9-11).
- ii. A loving father gives us the best answer, even when it's 'no.'
- iii. A father takes care of his children. Are you God's child?

Trust God to give you good things.

- i. Every good and perfect gift is from above (James 1:7).
- ii. God has plans for your future (Jer 29:11).
- iii. God gave us Jesus; he won't abandon us (Rom 8:32).

Thank God for 'unanswered' prayers.

- i. Sometimes we want the wrong thing.
- ii. Our impulses aren't necessarily God's will.
- iii. We only see a little; God sees the entire situation.
- iv. Unanswered prayers teach us to hope in God.

3. Model God's goodness to others (v. 12).

“¹² **So** whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

The Golden Rule.

- i. The only way we do this is through prayer.
- ii. God's goodness is not the absence of harm, it's the presence of good.
- iii. People will see God's goodness in you and want a relationship with God.

Today receive that which God desires to give
you most of all ... *eternal life*.