

DESPERATION

Desperation means a state of hopelessness leading to extreme recklessness to receive an answer or to see a change

Have you ever been so desperate for God to do something in your life you say God I'll do anything?

I'm finding out over the years, when God creates spiritual desperation in us, He's actually preparing us for what's next!

Matt 7:7-11 NKJV "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 he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being 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!

This is a picture of persistent prayer because we have become desperate for God to move

The Greek imperatives, ask-seek-knock, are in the present tense suggesting continued petitions

The problem with us many times is we don't become desperate for God until we have exhausted all our resources and head knowledge! His wisdom and resources never run out

ASK

v. 7

This is when we finally recognize our complete dependence on God. It's truly an act of humility that destroys our selfish pride

Yes, He knows our needs but the act of asking is us putting our faith and confidence in the One Who is always 100% right!

v. 8 says everyone who asks receives

SEEK

Seeking is more than asking, it requires a deeper commitment that actively searches for God's presence and His will

When we lose something we don't stop looking we keep seeking with full expectation of eventually finding it

Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Jer 29:12,13 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Here's Jesus' promise v. 8 the one who seeks finds!

KNOCK

Means you keep knocking and pounding on the door and you don't give up!

Desperation causes you to stop hesitating when approaching a closed door!

Just because a door is closed doesn't mean it cannot be opened – keep knocking!

When the answer isn't immediate, keep knocking, faith says I will trust God in the process and He will open the door

Why? Because the promise is v. 8 the one who knocks, it will be opened

How do I know that? Because I, as an earthly father, know how to give good gifts to my children, how much more will my heavenly father give good gifts to those who ask Him?

v. 11

then there's times when desperation leads you to another step – prayer and fasting

Why? Because some things only come through prayer and fasting

Ezra 8:21-23 Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. ²² For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the

road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God *is* upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath *are* against all those who forsake Him.” ²³ So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

Prayer and fasting is God’s gateway to His supernatural power

Desperate times call for desperate measures!

Fasting is the abstinence from food with a supernatural goal in mind!

In fasting and prayer you actually initiate the process of humbling ourselves before God!

When we become desperate enough, we take radical action and God answers us with His supernatural power!

Prayer and fasting is a door that God uses to do something fresh and powerful to prepare you for what’s next

David fasting – God filled him with hope

Jonah fasted – God gave Nineveh a revival

Esther fasted – the Lord used that moment to save Jewish people

Jesus fasted – Everywhere he went and everyone he touched experienced profound change!

There’s so many more examples church

What else is there to say? If prayer and fasting was good enough for them, then we should follow those steps!

This past Wed, Nov 5 marked a month that Tammy and I have fasted

But Wednesday morning in my prayer time the Lord said I want you to call for a 3 day total fast from food this Monday through Wednesday for the entire church

Wednesday night from 7-8 during church, the adults will go to the new church for a time of prayer and worship and scripture writing – you won’t want to miss this holy moment!

How desperate are you?