

Keep It Up

The Prayer Series | Message #3

October 10, 2021 ✨ WONDERFUL MERCY



Keep it

simple.

real.

up.

“Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with impossible religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.”

Matthew 7:7-8

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

“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.”

“When I read a passage like this I find it very hard to believe, and I have to remind myself of what it’s based on. Does Jesus really mean that God is going to answer every request we make? That he is like a father longing to give his children what they want and need? Can we truly take him up on such remarkably open-ended promises? It would be a shame to tone down one of the most sparkling and generous sets of promises anywhere in the Bible. ”

Asking, Seeking, Knocking

The present imperative tense in Matthew 7:7 issues a command that a person should always do something or should go on doing something

Asking, Seeking, Knocking

Jesus is not saying to pray harder or better, and maybe then God will be persuaded to act. He's saying something quite different: *“Keep it up. Don't stop. Keep your prayers short and to the point, and don't play act or perform. Just keep going after it.”*

The Kind of God We Have

Matthew 7:11 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

“So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.”

Luke 12:32 HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

“Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom.”



Jesus is less interested in the kind of praying we do than in the kind of God we have.



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