

Morning Sermon August 9, 2020
"Ask, Seek, Knock!" Matthew 7:7-11

I. What to pray for, "good things" –

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! Matthew 7:11 (NKJV)

I think it is wonderful Jesus tells us that the Father will give "good things" to those who ask Him!

1. "Good things" is broad terminology, it includes spiritual things, but also material, it ultimately refers to anything which could be truly "good" –

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17 (NKJV)

2. The best, Heavenly things would certainly be included in good things –
 - A. There are certain things we desperately need –

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit" refers to people who are spiritually bankrupt. We are all "spiritually bankrupt" until we find Christ, yet Jesus is speaking to those, and about those, who REALIZE they are spiritually bankrupt! Such people "ask, seek and knock" they pray for spiritual blessings!

Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven, means we will supplied with such blessing from that place –

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

- B. Among those blessing we desperately need is righteousness which we lack –

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

Ask, seek, knock, pray for righteousness, hunger and thirst for it and God will fill you with it!

3. These best, Heavenly, Kingdom of God things are the things we are to seek first –
³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

- A. This matches the Lord's Prayer – God's Name is Hallowed, His Kingdom to come, and His will being done, come BEFORE we pray for our daily bread!

- B. This is a first in priority, time, effort!

C. The prayer for Heavenly Kingdom things can mix with prayer for earthly –
Hannah desperately desired a son; her prayer was answered when she vowed to dedicate him to the service of God -

¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."
1 Samuel 1:11 (NKJV)

Her prayer was not only answered with Samuel, but with more children –

²¹ And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.
1 Samuel 2:21 (NKJV)

- D. This means we can pray for material things, for healings, for a great variety of big and small "good things." We should pray for the best, but also for the rest ...

4. Note in Luke's account of this prayer, the prayer is not for a thing at all, but for a Divine Person –

¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
Luke 11:13 (NKJV)

The Greatest Gift, Answer to prayer, is the Giver Who gives Himself –

³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
Revelation 21:3 (NKJV)

We pray to "Our Father" – Matthew 6:9

II. How are we to pray?

1. First with a level of fervency –

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)

Knocking, especially knocking hard, implies a desperation, a need, a fervency ---

... **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 B (NKJV)**

2. Yet, more important even than fervency is FAITH, we need to trust that God is good, that He desires and is able to answer our prayers –

Note the Faith encouraging aspects of Christ’s teaching:

A. Answered prayer works for everyone -

⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
Matthew 7:8–11 (NKJV)

B. Trust your Heavenly Father to be better than your earthly father -

⁹Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If 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!
Matthew 7:9–11 (NKJV)

So God’s goodness, His readiness to answer is more important to the answer to prayer than powerful fervency in prayer. Fact is, the more we understand God’s goodness, His readiness to answer prayers to our benefit, the more fervent our prayers will be!

III. The real power and purpose of prayer, our relationship with the Heavenly Father, with Christ, with God the Holy Spirit -

... how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
Matthew 7:11 (NKJV)



is a great convenience store! Yet, Matthew 7:11 is the place your Heavenly Father owns! A store that has EVERYTHING!

But the best part is that God our Father is the owner –

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest *is* Mine, *And* the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the mountains, *And* the wild beasts of the field *are* Mine. Psalm 50:10–11 (NKJV)

1. Yet, going to the store your Father owns, you do not go only for things, you go for Your Father –

³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)

2. Whenever we read the Bible, pray, hear a sermon, take part in a Bible study, we should always think of these as opportunities to get to know God better, this should be our great priority –

²³Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV)

3. God wants us whole-hearted, fervent about seeking Him –

¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11–13 (NKJV)

A. Whole-hearted seeking of and finding God is good for us – Jeremiah 29:11

B. God listens to our prayers – Jeremiah 29:12

C. God wants to be found by us – Jeremiah 29:13

²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD. Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV)

He who finds God / Christ and has His favor has EVERYTHING -

¹¹And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11–12 (NKJV)

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