

Answered Prayer

June 8th & 9th, 2013

Matthew 7:7-11

Jesus' disciples were learning about their new and vital relationship with Almighty God. Communication through prayer would be the vehicle of bringing God's power and presence into life's situations.

Persistence in Prayer

"The force of the present imperatives in verse 7 is iterative. The disciple is never to weary of asking, seeking, and knocking. He must be persistent in bringing his requests before the throne of grace, for it is the persistent petitioner whose prayers will be answered."

📖 Luke 18:1-7

The words, *ask, seek, and knock* are all in the present continuous tense in the Greek, which means "ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking."

Colossians 4:2 "Continue steadfastly in prayer..."

Hebrews 10:35-36 "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

Promise of Answered Prayer

"Everyone who asks receives..."

↳ Remember that Jesus is talking to His disciples!

❖ God rewards perseverance in seeking Him.

♦ Nehemiah: *Nehemiah 1:4-11*

♦ Daniel: *Daniel 10:2,12-14*

❖ If God denies our requests, then He has something better! *2 Corinthians 12:7-9*

"How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things..."

❖ We must never think that persistent prayer will somehow overcome some unwillingness on God's part to respond to our needs!

Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

1 Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Power of the Holy Spirit through Prayer

Luke 11:13 “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

- ❖ The early disciples continually needed the power of God’s Holy Spirit!
 - ♦ Peter: *Acts 4:8 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ...’”*
 - ♦ The Believers: *Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”*
 - ♦ Stephen: *Acts 7:55 “But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”*
 - ♦ Philip: *Acts 8:39 “And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.”*
 - ♦ Saul and Barnabas: *Acts 13:1-4*

📖 Ephesians 5:15-20

Endnotes:

¹Tasker, R. V. G. General Ed., *The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, 20 Vols., Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1961.

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