



God Guarantees To Answer Your Prayers

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:” (Matthew 7:7).

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“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:7-11).

Many people have a tendency of complicating the simple. In this scripture prayer is as simple as asking and receiving or of creating cottage industries out of nothing and wasting the rest of their lives trying to administer it. However, as simple as it is, it still takes an unflinching faith grounded in solid / living personal relationship with God to make it work.

Firstly, the text illustrates that there:

1) are 3 components of prayers - ask, seek and knock. These three verbs are in the present imperative in the original text. That simply means that they demand continual, repeated action. Ask and keep on asking until you receive; seek and go on seeking until you find; knock and continue until the door is opened. Pray and keep on praying until the Father answers according to His promise. It is obvious that the Lord is teaching us and calling us to importunity in prayer. We often give up too soon, just before the door to heaven's storehouse is opened. Our lack of supply is often the result of our lack of importunate supplication. A few of us are ignorant of what is in the storehouse for us. Others knock at the door of the storehouse so feebly that they are barely heard. Jesus is waiting for us to come and knock at the door. Whatever our needs are, the door will be opened and we shall be satisfied with justification, salvation, regeneration, transformation, provision, restoration, imputation, sanctification, impartation, protection, preservation and finally, glorification. We are not knocking only to stop after receiving an initial supply of grace, we keep on knocking until we receive abundant grace, sufficient grace, grace for every need.

2) is increasing levels of intensity as one progresses from asking to seeking and to knocking. This implies that when asking does not produce the required results, it is necessary to progress to the seeking stage, and then to knocking, if necessary. The fervency of our prayer and force of our faith often show how important our request is to us. Coming back to the illustration of knocking, the desperate man who is knocking at the door to meet a pressing need will knock differently from a casual visitor with no definite purpose. Those who knock casually in prayer often have wandering thoughts in prayer; they are formal and repeat the

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same phrase each prayer time; they do not have any specific need in prayer; they habitually sleep off when praying; they lack freshness of thought and have no grip on any promise of God; they do not remember what they have prayed for and they are not conscious of their spiritual state; like the Laodiceans they are lukewarm in the closet, too lazy to seek urgent remedy for their spiritual malady. Intensity in prayer is demonstrated by the righteous whose fervent prayer avails much. Watch Jacob at Peniel; observe Elijah on mount Carmel; visit with Abraham as he intercedes for Sodom; follow Moses to the mount where he pleads for backslidden Israel on the verge of destruction; kneel beside Daniel as he prays for Israel's seventy-year captivity to end; feel the great heaviness and continual sorrow in Paul's heart as he cries in prayer for the salvation of his kinsmen according to the flesh, and you will catch a glimpse of what it means to knock with importunity and intensity.

When these elements are satisfied, God assures us of getting answers. Note how Jesus said it: “For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (vs 8). **‘Everyone’** is guaranteed answers. That includes you and I. This knowledge should increase our confidence and boldness to approach the throne of grace with absolute expectation of obtaining answers for our needs.

To further emphasise, Jesus used an illustration “Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:9-11). The whole process is put in the family setting. We are not asking as a beggar from an unknown stranger, we are asking as a trusting child from a loving Father. We are not seeking as a traveller seeks water in a desert, we are seeking fruit as a member of the family in the family garden. We are not knocking at the door of a house guarded by wild dogs, we are knocking at the door of our Father's house who is waiting to open the door and receive us. Simply stated, if flawed human beings can give good things to their children in response to their requests, should we (as God's children) expect less from our heavenly Father, who is far better than mankind?