

Persistent Prayer

Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction:

- The Bible shows that we must never treat prayer like a magical formula in getting what we ask.
 1. Jesus prayed ____ times, *Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me* (Matt 26:39ff) and did not get what He asked.
 2. Paul prayed _____ times for God to remove his t_____ in the flesh and did not get what he asked (2 Cor 12:8ff)
- Prayer is a big subject and encompasses:
 1. P_____ God;
 2. Thanking God;
 3. C_____ our sins to God;
 4. Asking God;
 5. L_____ to God;
 6. Talking things out with God.
- In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus focuses on the kind of prayer where we a_____ God for something and shows us the importance of asking with persistency. Let us learn how to pray this way.

The Purpose of Persistency (7,8)

- Persistency:
 1. Is NOT i_____ that God see things our way (e.g. Jesus and Paul were persistent but not insistent).
 2. IS being focused on God's p_____ or solution or desire as we continually ask.
- Jesus uses three action words that fit the acrostic, ASK, and all of them (in the Greek text) are in a tense that could be translated as k_____ on or continually ASK:
 1. A – _____
 2. S - _____
 3. K – _____
- The three action words picture the persistency we are to have
 1. Keep on asking – this is not shown in the words we repeat but in our h_____ (Matt 15:8 – God is not a lip reader but a heart reader)
 2. Keep on seeking – this is following up on asking God by searching for God's a_____.

3. Keep on knocking – this is the a_____ of checking things out to see if it is God’s answer.

●Application

1. Many believers can find a spouse, get a job, etc. without praying with persistency, but in so doing they are not focusing on God’s solution, will, or plan.
2. Example of getting a job
 - a. A – continually ask God to provide a job that He would a_____ of.
 - b. S – continually s_____ for job opportunities, without stopping your action of asking God to provide.
 - c. K – A_____ for jobs, go to the interviews, without stopping your actions of asking and seeking, until you get a job (the door opens).

The Product of Persistency (9-11)

- The product of persistency is receiving, finding, and grabbing what is God’s solution, desire, or p_____ for you.

1. This is always g_____ (Jesus’s suffering was good because it paid for s_____)
2. It will always give you j_____ even though it may not be what you originally asked for (Heb 12:2; 2 Cor 12:10)

- The illustration and application

1. Earthly fathers k_____ how to give good gifts to their children even though they are e_____ (compared to God) – vv. 9-11a
 - a. No earthly father would give his son a s_____ when his son is asking for b_____.
 - b. No earthly father would give his son a s_____ when his son is asking for a f_____.
2. How much more does our heavenly Father know how to give good gifts to His children who p_____ ask (the tense of the word “ask” is in a tense that emphasizes ongoing action) – v. 11b

Conclusion:

Whenever you have a request for God, you must come to Him with a fire in your h_____ to seek His solution. So persistently ASK and trust that He knows how to give g_____ gifts to you.