

Ask, Seek, Knock (Be Persistent)

Matthew 7:7-12

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Thesis: To show the persistence we must have in these three commands so that we can be pleasing to God and have all the spiritual blessings in Christ.

Intro:

1. Being persistent is the idea of never giving up and never wavering from what you want.
2. You may have heard the phrase, “keep on keeping on.”
3. I want us to think about the persistence we must have in our Christian walk.
4. There is a great example of persistence in one of Jesus’ parables (**Luke 11:5-8**).
5. A parable is an _____ story with a _____ meaning.
6. What is the earthly story?
 - a. A man needs _____ loaves of bread (**11:5-6**).
 - b. Initially the friend refused to give him the bread (**11:7**).
 - c. Then he arose not because of the friendship but because of his _____ (**11:8**).
7. The heavenly meaning is in the next section which is parallel with Matthew 7:7-12.

I. Be persistent in prayer (Matt. 7:7-8).

- A. The meaning of the words in the text.
 1. “Ask” is used for prayer on a regular basis.
 - a. Solomon had to _____ for what he wanted (**1 Kings 3:5**).
 - b. The people had to _____ for rain (**Zech. 10:1**).
 - c. “Whatever things you ask when you _____, believe that you receive them and you will have them” (**Mark 11:24**).
 - d. “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be _____ in the Son” (**John 14:13**).
 2. The verbs in the original language.
 - a. Ask, seek, and knock are all in the present tense.
 - b. These are actions we keep on doing.
 - c. All these verbs are also imperative [commands].
- B. Ask, seek, knock.
 1. “Ask” indicates humble asking as does an inferior to a superior [Patterson].
 - a. One is to go to God in a _____ way (**James 4:10**).
 - b. “Ask” literally means to beg, crave, or desire.
 - c. Have you ever begged God for something?
 - d. Do you desire to ask God what you need?

- e. We must have confidence God is going to _____ us (**1 John 5:14-15**).
 - (1) He **does not** hear the prayers of the _____ (**Psalm 66:18**).
 - (2) He **does** hear the prayers of the _____ (**Psalm 66:19-20; James 5:16**).
- 2. "Seek" indicates seeking in order to find something.
 - a. This is another action that is our responsibility.
 - b. "_____ first the kingdom of God and His _____" (**Matt. 6:33**).
 - c. It does take _____ on our part to seek Him (**Jer. 29:12-13**).
 - d. Do you put in the effort to seek Him?
 - e. Jesus says to _____ for the lost sheep (**Matt. 18:12**).
- 3. "Knock" is the idea of knocking on God's door in a figurative way.
 - a. "Behold I stand at the door and _____" (**Rev. 3:20**).
 - b. Do you keep knocking on God's door?
- 4. In all three actions Jesus tells us what we receive if we do them (**Matt. 7:7-8**).
- 5. If we show persistence God will _____ according to His will.
 - a. He may answer with a _____ (**1 Sam. 1:11, 20**).
 - b. He may answer with a _____ (**Matt. 26:39, 42; 2 Cor. 12:7-10**).
 - c. He may _____ His answer (**Gen. 18:23-32; Jer. 42:7**).
- C. The parable of the persistent widow (**Luke 18:1-8**).
 - 1. What is the earthly story? (**18:1-5**)
 - a. Jesus states the main point of the parable right away.
 - b. "_____ ought to pray and not lose heart" (**18:1**).
 - c. She was _____ and kept on going to the judge (**18:5**).
 - 2. What is the heavenly meaning? (**18:6-8**).
 - a. Be _____ in prayer and do not lose heart (**18:1**).
 - b. How much more will God answer those who petition of Him?
 - c. Do you have the faith of the persistent widow to keep asking?
- D. Are you persistent or do you give up when God doesn't answer the way you want?
 - 1. Please do not give up when you don't get the answer you want.
 - 2. God will give to us generously and without reproach (**James 1:5**).
 - 3. But we must _____, _____ and _____.
 - 4. Be persistent in prayer.

II. Be persistent in love (**Matt. 7:9-11**).

- A. Jesus uses another "how much more" teaching.
 - 1. Jesus uses an illustration to show how much more God loves us (**Matt. 6:26-28**).
 - 2. Jesus looks at the idea of _____ in physical fathers to our heavenly Father.
- B. The physical father's persistence in love.
 - 1. He uses the idea of a paternal father's love to [keep on] providing for his children.

- a. What are you going to give your child if they ask for food?
- b. What are you going to give him if he asks for a fish?
- c. What are you going to give him if he asks for an egg? (**Luke 11:12**)
2. No father worth anything would do this to his children?
3. A father must be persistent in giving his child his/her needs.
- C. The heavenly Father's persistence in love.
 1. Jesus uses a lesser-greater argument to show God's persistent love to the people.
 2. Jesus compares _____ and _____.
 - a. He calls the paternal father _____.
 - b. How much more will the heavenly father ____ good things to those who ask?
 - c. God will be persistent in supplying all our _____ (**Phil. 4:19**).
 - d. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from _____" (**James 1:17**).
 3. God will show His persistent love if we are persistent in our asking.

III. Be persistent in our responsibility (**Matt. 7:12**).

- A. The _____ rule.
 1. Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
 2. Many ancient philosophers taught this but in the negative.
 - a. "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do unto others [Confucious].
 - b. "What is hateful to you, do not do it to your neighbor" [Aristotle; Greek].
 3. Jesus uses it in the _____.
 4. Jesus sums up the old law with these words.
 5. Later in Matthew He gives the greatest two commandments (**Matt. 22:37-40**).
 - a. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____" (**22:37**).
 - b. "You shall love your _____ as yourself" (**22:39**).
 6. There is a responsibility to be persistent in keeping these commands.
- B. Be persistent in this rule.
 1. Consider this with the same idea throughout this section (**Matt. 5:20**).
 2. We are to be persistent in prayer, persistent in love, and persistent in our responsibility.
- C. Some misuses of this verse.
 1. Some think this is what saves them.
 2. Some think it obligates one to grant all the requests of others.
 3. If this great principle was used in the correct way, there would be no wars, no lawsuits, no disagreements that could not be settled.
 4. Most just want to say it and not practice it.
- D. Do you practice this rule in your everyday lives?
 1. Are you persistent in this responsibility we all have as Christians?

2. Jesus concludes this section with a great moral standard to live by.

Conclusion:

1. Being persistent is the idea of never giving up and keep on going.
2. Please don't give up when your prayers are not answered in the way you want them.
3. God will answer our prayers according to His will.
4. "And we know that all things work together for _____" **(Rom. 8:28)**.
5. Keep on asking and it will be given to you.
6. Keep on seeking and you will find.
7. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.
8. Be persistent in your daily walk as a child of God.