

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)*

## **Last Resort?**

I have had a bad habit. **What's that?** For much of my life, I have thought of prayer as a last resort. **How so?** Well, if after an exhaustive effort on my part, I couldn't solve my own problems, then I would turn to prayer. Or if some need was far beyond my ability to meet, then I would turn to prayer. **What's wrong with that approach to prayer?** You want me to live in an intimate relationship with you. You want me to come to rely on you. You are my loving Heavenly Father. You want to give good gifts to me. It is your joy to hear and answer my prayer. **Yes, it is my desire to give you what you will need in life.**

**Why is it that you have been so reluctant to pray? Do you think that I am too busy to listen to you? Do you believe that your request will be some kind of bother to me? Do you regard it as some kind of virtue to solve your own problems, without my help?** I don't have any good answers. I do know one thing. I have learned one thing. **What's that?** I have learned that apart from you I can accomplish nothing of true and lasting and eternal value. I don't want to live a life apart from you. I don't my life to be an accumulation of check marks off of an insignificant to do list. **What do you want?** I want to live in an intimate relationship with you. I want to hear your voice. I want to live in an ongoing prayer dialogue with you. I want to talk with you about anything and everything. I want you to teach me how to pray. I want you to give me prayers to pray. I want to be able to pray prayers that you will hear and answer. **Those are all very good desires.** I'm sure that these desires come from you. **Yes, they do.**

**What must you do if you want to live a life of prayer? What must you do if you want me to teach you to pray? What must you do if you want to be able to pray prayers that I will hear and answer?** I must meet with you in prayer. I must set aside a time and a place when and where I can begin to develop a daily pattern of meeting with you in prayer. I must enter your prayer classroom. **Will you do that? Will you ask, will you seek, will you knock in prayer?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, I will not remain silent. I will not "go it alone". I will rely on you. I will make my needs known to you. I will be persistent, and passionate in the prayers I pray. I will ask. I will seek. I will knock. I will wait patiently for you to hear and answer my prayers. Amen*

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Seek, Knock*

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

NIV Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Asking, Seeking, Knocking*

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

NLT Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Search, Knock*

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

NRSV Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Asking, Seeking, Knocking*

Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened.

AMP Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Seek, Knock*

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

NASB Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Seek, Knock*

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

ESV Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Seek, Knock*

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

NKJV Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask For What You Need*

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in.

MSG Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Seek, Knock*

"Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open.

TLB Matthew 7:7-8

**Becoming Like Christ** *Ask, Search, Knock*

"Ask, and God will give to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open for you. Yes, everyone who asks will receive. Everyone who searches will find. And everyone who knocks will have the door opened.

NCV Matthew 7:7-8

# Ask, Seek, Knock

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming Like Christ** – Matthew 7:7-8

**In Context:** *Read Matthew 7*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God’s Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Ask | and it will | be given | to you; | seek and you | will find; | knock and | the door | will be opened to you. | For everyone | who asks | receives; | he who seeks | finds; | and to him | who knocks, | the door | will be | opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will not remain silent. I will not "go it alone". I will rely on you. I will make my needs known to you. I will be persistent, and passionate in the prayers I pray. I will ask. I will seek. I will knock. I will wait patiently for you to hear and answer my prayers. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you been in great need but failed to ask the Lord for what you need?

Why have you sometime been reluctant in making your needs known to the Lord?

**Why does the Lord want you to come to ask Him for what you need?**

Why is the Lord willing to hear and answer the prayers you pray to Him?

**When have you been persistent and unrelenting in a prayer request to the Lord?**

Why does the Lord want to see your passion and persistence in the prayers you pray to Him?

**How has your faith grown as you have made your prayers known to the Lord?**

**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Pray to the Lord and ask Him for what you need.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will hear and answer the prayers you pray to Him.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what prayers you are praying to the Lord.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you keep on asking and seeking and knocking as you make your needs known to the Lord.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will keep on asking, seeking and knocking as I make my needs known to you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I keep on asking, seeking and knocking as I make my needs known to you today?*

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