

KEEP ON PRAYING

Matthew 7:6-11

When prayer is difficult, we must be diligent

I. THE REASONS FOR PERSISTENT PRAYING (1-9)

A. WE NEED DISCERNMENT (1-6)

1. Consider the immediate context
 - a. Evaluating others (7:1-5)
 - b. Giving to others (7:6)
2. Consider the broader context (6:1-34)
 - We have a hard time knowing when we are hypocrites, hoarders and harried

B. WE NEED DINNER (9-11)

1. We must ask for daily bread, this keeps the communion constant
2. Our basic needs are in His hands

C. WE NEED DEPENDENCE

1. By asking we acknowledge God as the giver, and ourselves as needy and unable to provide for all or our basic provisions
2. Example: Solomon in I Kings 3:7-9

D. WE NEED DISCIPLINE

- While waiting for God's answers we learn patience

E. WE NEED DISCOVERY

1. Through persistent prayer we can gain perspective about the subject of our prayer
2. Rather than asking for this (exp: a new phone), I should be asking for this (exp: contentment)

II. THE REGULATIONS OF PERSISTENT PRAYING (7)

A. ASKING

1. By asking we are not assuming that God will be giving it to us "just because" that's what He does
2. We are humbly submitting wanting to know the mind and will of God
 - See Neh. 1:11 & 2:4 along with Acts 13:1-2

B. SEEKING

1. Asking + Action
2. Taking the Initiative > We come to God - See Isaiah 26:9
3. Effort is needed > A burning pursuit of God - See Jer. 29:13 and James 5:16b

Over please >

C. KNOCKING

1. Asking + Action + Attention
2. Knocking and not knocking over ...

III. THE REASSURANCE OF POSITIVE PRAYING (8-11)**A. WE FIND THAT GOD IS GIVING (8)**

1. We learn that God listens!
2. We learn that God does not discriminate!
3. We learn that God is faithful!

B. WE FIND THAT GOD IS GRACIOUS (9-11)

1. Our Heavenly Father is better than natural dads (11)
 - See Isaiah 49:15
2. Our Heavenly Father gives good gifts - See James 1:17
 - a. God gives daily sustenance
 - b. A “good gift” is well thought out and therefore particularly useful for the recipient

CONCLUSION:

Let us be disciplined and devoted to persistent prayer