

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount
The Positive Love of the Father
Matthew 7:7-11

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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. Or which one of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

A positive set of expectations

- Be constantly asking, and you will be constantly receiving.
- Be constantly seeking, and you will be constantly finding.
- Be constantly knocking, and doors will be constantly opening for you.

1. Keep Asking

- We can approach God confidently in prayer
- Ask means to make a request
- Helplessness but not hopelessness
- We need:
 - Salvation
 - The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance

How to ask

- According to His will: “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us” (1 John 5:14).
- In faith: “Let him ask in faith, with no doubting” (James 1:6).
- Not for our lusts: “You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions” (James 4:3).

2. Keep Seeking

- We can approach life confidently
- Not everything is given in completed form
- Seek God: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jer.29:13)
- Seek His Rule: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33).

Seek...

- **“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above (seek those things which are above), where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1).**
- **“Seek peace and pursue it” (1 Peter 3:11).**

3. Keep Knocking

- We approach the future confidently
- A gracious confidence in life
- John the Baptist said, “A man can only receive that which is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).
- Ephraim and Manasseh

Knock for doors to be opened for God

- **“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak” (Col. 4:2-4).**

In daily life...

- **“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Col. 4:5-6).**