Asking, Seeking, and Knocking TMTPL # 8

Handout

Effective prayer is inextricably tied to how we treat other people and to our commitment to God.

Luke 11:5-10 NIV

**5**Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6**a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ **7**And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ **8**I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25414e)] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

**9**“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **10**For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew records the exact words about asking, seeking, and knocking that Luke does, but then in verse 12 we see him make a connection to receiving good things from God in answer to prayer.

Matthew 7:7-12 NIV

**7**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

**9**“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10**Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? **11**If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! **12**So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

We can only be bold in asking, seeking, and knocking when we are right with God and are treating other people right.

The most important thing we will ever pray for someone else is that they become Christians saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Paul, when writing to the church of Colossae counseled them and us as follows:

Colossians 4:2-6 NIV

**2**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

As Christians we are called to be devoted to prayer. In the Greek, the word translated as devoted means: to continue to do something with intense effort, despite difficulty.

What needs around us should be praying about with this intensity? Do you thank God for answers to prayer even as you ask for them?

**3**And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. **4**Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

**5**Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. **6**Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

We need to pray for wisdom and discernment in how we interact with people. We are to be salt and light in this world, so when we are with the lost, we need to be holy, winsome, and compassionate. When we are with believers, we are to build one another up in Christ, channeling our conversations to God’s holy purposes.

Ask – God has given us the gift of prayer, so it is appropriate to ask for things in prayer.

Seek – After we ask, our faith should be looking expectantly for God’s answer, even if it is delayed.

Knock – This is the action that has to do with persistence in prayer and with the willingness to do our part to be involved in God’s work in bringing the answer. Obedience is faith in action responding to God’s goodness and willingness to answer prayer.