

Union Baptist Church

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Lesson 1: The Promise of an Answered Prayer

“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.” Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV

Matthew 7:7–8 should not be treated as a simple promise that “God will give me whatever I ask for.” It is deeper than that. Jesus is teaching Kingdom people how to live in continual dependence on the Father. Jesus is teaching us that the life of faith is not a life of self-sufficiency, but a life of continual dependence on the Father. The mature disciple does not outgrow prayer; he grows deeper in prayer.”

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has been teaching His disciples how to live under the rule of God. He has addressed the heart, anger, lust, integrity, retaliation, love for enemies, prayer, fasting, treasures, anxiety, judging others, and spiritual discernment. By the time He says, “Ask... seek... knock,” He is speaking to people who already understand that life in the Kingdom requires wisdom beyond human ability.

So these verses are not about manipulating God. They are about learning to live before God with humility, persistence, trust, and spiritual dependence.

Opening Thought

Jesus gives this promise to disciples who are learning how to live under the authority of God. He says, “Ask... seek... knock,” because the life He calls us to live cannot be lived in human strength alone. We need the Father’s wisdom, provision, correction, direction, and grace.

This passage speaks to the responsibility of spiritual discernment. We are expected to make decisions, carry burdens, lead families, serve in ministry, manage pressure, and maintain strength. But Jesus reminds us that maturity is not independence from God. True maturity is knowing how much we need Him. The mature disciple remains dependent, teachable, and prayerful before God.

Spiritual Significance of “Ask”

To ask is to acknowledge need.

This is difficult for many men because asking requires humility. It means admitting, “I do not have everything within myself.” But Jesus dignifies asking. He teaches that a faithful man does not have to pretend to be self-sufficient.

A mature man asks God for wisdom before making decisions. He asks for strength when he is weary. He asks for forgiveness when he has failed. He asks for patience when he is under pressure. He asks for discernment when the way is unclear.

The spiritual principle is this:

Asking is not weakness; asking is dependence on the Father.

Application question for the men:

Where in my life have I been carrying something that I should have brought to God in prayer?

Spiritual Significance of “Seek”

To seek is to pursue God’s will, not just God’s gifts.

Seeking means searching for God’s direction. It suggests movement, attention, effort, and desire. A man who seeks searches the Scriptures, listens for the Spirit’s conviction, receives wise counsel, examines his motives, and waits for God’s direction.

This is especially important because experience can become dangerous when it replaces dependence. A man may know business, leadership, family, finance, or church life, but still need God’s guidance for the present moment.

The spiritual principle is this:

Seeking means I do not merely want relief; I want God’s will.

Application question:

Am I seeking God’s direction, or am I only asking God to bless what I have already decided?

Spiritual Significance of “Knock”

To knock is to persevere when the door has not yet opened.

Knocking suggests that something is closed or not immediately accessible. Jesus is teaching persistence. Not panic. Not force. Not frustration. Persistence.

This matters because life includes closed doors, delayed answers, unanswered questions, and seasons where God’s timing is not clear. Knocking means we continue in faith. We keep praying. We keep trusting. We keep showing up. We keep obeying while waiting.

The spiritual principle is this:

Knocking is faith that remains active while waiting for God to open what only He can open.

Application question:

Where is God teaching me to remain faithful while I wait?

A Summary of the Passage

Matthew 7:7–8 teaches that Kingdom living requires continual dependence on the Father. Jesus invites His disciples to ask with humility, seek with desire, and knock with perseverance. The promise is that the Father responds faithfully to those who come to Him in trust.

This passage calls us away from pride, self-reliance, silent suffering, and impulsive decision-making. It teaches us to bring our needs to God, pursue His will, and remain faithful when the answer is not immediate.

A mature man is not the man who no longer needs to pray. A mature man is the man who has lived long enough to know that he cannot make it without prayer. He asks because he trusts the Father. He seeks because he wants the Father's will. He knocks because he believes the Father knows when and how to open the right door.

Practical Life Applications

This passage can be applied to several areas of life today:

In decision-making:

Before moving forward, ask God for wisdom, seek His will, and wait for His direction.

In family leadership:

Do not lead only from experience or emotion. Lead prayerfully, humbly, and spiritually.

In personal struggle:

Bring hidden burdens to God. Men often suffer silently, but Jesus invites them to ask.

In ministry service:

Do not assume giftedness is enough. Ministry requires constant dependence on God.

In seasons of delay:

When doors do not open quickly, continue knocking with faith and obedience.