

What Happens When We Pray? Part Two

WORDS OF ESCALATING INTENSITY

Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf of bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:7-11)

The three words in this passage are all imperatives (or commands) and each word is a little more intense than the word preceding it.

1. First we _____, then if we ask and don't hear we are to _____.
2. What does it mean to seek? You must _____ for the _____.
3. Why should we seek out God? Because if we're not careful, we can sometimes get caught up in the _____ and forget about the _____.
4. God wants a _____ connection with us.
5. After we _____ and we _____, then we might need to _____

When I hear this word I get a mental picture of a person asking a friend for something, but not getting an answer. So he circles his friend's house, searching for him. If he doesn't see him outside, he goes up to the front door and starts knocking; "Would you please come?"

THE INFLUENCE OF PRAYER

For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be

There are two things here of special note.

1. PRAYER IS COMPREHENSIVE
 - A. Notice the word _____
 - B. God's ears are not at all _____
 - C. Jesus is talking about people who know _____
2. PRAYER IS CERTAIN
 - A. _____ who asks _____ and _____ who seeks _____ and _____ who _____ it shall be opened

- B. Andrew Murray says “This is the fixed eternal law of the kingdom: if you ask and receive not, it must be because there is something amiss or wanting in the prayer. Hold on; let the Word and Spirit teach you to pray aright, but do not let go the confidence He seeks to waken: Everyone who asks receives..... Let every learner in the school of Christ therefore take the Masters word in all simplicity..... Let us beware of weakening the Word with our human wisdom.”
- C. If you are a _____, know with _____ that your heavenly Father _____ to _____ your prayer!