

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, June 16, 2019**

**Ask! Seek! Knock!  
A Study of Matthew 7:7-11**

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What was the boldest, most outrageous thing your child has ever asked of you? (Alternately, what was the boldest, most outrageous thing you ever asked of your parents when you were a child?)

Think back over all we've studied in the Sermon on the Mount the last five months. Make a list of some of the things Jesus has commanded us. (Feel free to scan Matthew 5-7 if you need to refresh your memory.)

Christ's commands in the Sermon on the Mount may seem impossible. Matthew 7:7-11 is a supply closet filled with everything you need to accomplish his commands.

When it comes to prayer, Jesus expects 4 things of us according to these verses. Use your sermon notes to fill in the following blanks as you come to them.

**R\_\_\_\_\_!**  
**“God calls on you to call on Him, so respond!”**

Read Matthew 7:7-8.

Read 1 Samuel 12:23.

Samuel regarded prayerlessness as a sin! Jack Taylor said failure to pray is a sin against five things. Choose three of the following that make the most sense to you, and explain why the statements you've chosen are true:

- ❖ It's a sin against God's person.
- ❖ It's a sin against God's plan.
- ❖ It's a sin against God's pleasure. (Read Proverbs 15:8.)
- ❖ It's a sin against God's promises.
- ❖ It's a sin against God's power.

Pastor Tom added a sixth one: Failure to pray is a sin against God's provision. What did it cost God to give us

access to him, and how does our failure to come to him belittle that?

“Prayer was God’s idea long before it was our idea.” How could Matthew 7:7-8, be used to defend this statement?

**C \_\_\_\_\_ !**  
**“As long as you need God’s resources,  
keep asking for them!”**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Based upon that verse, how long do you think Jesus expected us to ask and seek and knock before stopping?

Name common reasons/excuses why people stop praying.

What does Luke 18:1 teach about the kind of praying people we should be? What’s required to pray like that?

**A \_\_\_\_\_ !**  
**“Know and express your desperation!”**

Explain how the words “ask, seek, and knock” in Matthew 7:7 express a *building* intensity and a *growing* urgency.

“Having to ask God for things reveals our spiritual bankruptcy.” If we’re not praying with desperation and passion, is that a sign we don’t acknowledge our weakness and need? Explain.

“The most fatal thing in the Christian life is to be content with passing desires. If we really want to be men of God, if we really want to know him, and walk with him, and experience those boundless blessings which he has to offer us, we must persist in asking him for them day by day. . . . This, we must agree, is the point at which most of us fail.”  
--Dr. David Martin Lloyd-Jones

**W \_\_\_\_\_!**  
**“Look for God’s activity in your life,  
because he answers prayer!”**

Read Matthew 7:9-11.

What truths do these verses teach in reference to God meeting our needs rather than just our wants?

What truths do these verses teach in reference to God acting as a perfect heavenly father?

What did Jesus mean when he called us “evil”? (“If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children....”)

The Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer wrote:  
“Suppose we awoke tomorrow morning and we opened our Bibles and found two things had been taken out, not as the liberals would take them out, but really out. Suppose God had taken them out. The first item missing was the real empowering of the Holy Spirit, and the second item the reality of prayer. Consequently, following the dictates of Scripture, we would begin to live on the basis of this new Bible in which there was nothing about the power of the Holy Spirit and nothing about the power of prayer. Let me ask you something: what difference would there be from the way we acted yesterday?”

Well?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests