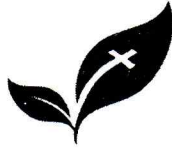


Matthew 7:7-8  
"Power of Prayer"

SUN Night  
7-30-2023  
Bro. Birkett



## 1. Introduction

- a. Sermon on the Mount - Mt 5:1-7:29
- b. Context about prayer (vs. 9-11)
  - relation of father to children
- c. Prayer is key to unlock door to heavenly Father
- d. Compare to Lord's Prayer (6:9-13)
  - how to not pray (Mt 6:7-8)
  - how to pray (Mt 6:6)
- e. Prayer often neglected spiritual discipline
- f. Four truths about power of prayer

## 2. Promise to Prayer

- a. Access to God's divine <sup>power</sup> ~~prayer~~
  - Mt 6:8 Father knows your needs before you ask
  - Jms 1:5 ask for wisdom
- b. Jms 4:2 ~~is~~ you don't have because you don't ask
- c. Fellowship factor
  - God wants you to know Him
  - book Knowing God, by JI Packer
  - starts with accepting Jesus of Nazareth in your life
  - heavenly Father Mt 6:9
- d. Development factor
  - 1 Pet 2:2-3 newborn babies grow
- e. Dependence factor
  - Ask, seek, know
  - will be given, will find, will be opened
  - heavenly Father gives good things to those who ask (7:11)

### 3. Process to Follow

#### a. Progress in prayer

- ask → seek → find

#### b. Express to God your desire

- God commands Christian to pray

- prayer expresses Christian dependence on God

#### c. Entreat (beg) God for direction

- seek = looking for direction

- Acts 16: 6-10 Paul tried to go in various directions

\* forbidden, forbid, then conclusion after vision to go west

- Jms 5: 16 effective fervent prayer of righteous man avails much

#### d. Engage God with determination

- knocking to open a door

\* continue knocking

\* Lk 11: 5-10 persistence continually knocking

### 4. Provision to Receive

#### a. God will respond

- to him who knocks, it will be opened

#### b. Jn 16: 24 ask and you will receive that your joy may be full

#### c. God answers prayer presently

#### d. God answers prayer paternally (as a father)

- Mt 7: 11 how much more heavenly Father gives good things

### 5. Principle to Follow

#### a. God's Golden Rule (Mt 7: 12)

- the Law & the Prophets (Scripture)

- whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them

#### b. Power of Holy Spirit (Lk 11: 13)

- parallel verses (Lk 11: 9-12)

- how much more will heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him

\* will of the Lord (Eph 5: 17-20)

\* be filled with Holy Spirit

- Acts 2: 1-3 First time baptized in Holy Spirit

- Acts 2: 4-40 filled with Holy Spirit