



Kingdom Praying

How to receive from God

MATTHEW 7:7-11

Mark 11:24-25 (ESV)

- ▶ 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, **believe** that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And whenever you stand praying, **forgive**, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV)

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

1. The GREATNESS of God

- ▶ "Who is in heaven" (v11)
- ▶ Otherness
- ▶ Not limited too
- ▶ Throne room

2. The GOODNESS of God

- ▶ Matt. 7:9-11 "9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

3. The GENEROSITY of God

- ▶ Matthew 7:7-8, 11 (ESV) 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.11 "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Prayer is not overcoming divine ignorance

- ▶ Matthew 6:8 ESV "...your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Prayer is not informing God but conforming to God's way for giving and receiving

- ▶ God's way is that "everyone who asks receives" (Matt. 7:8)
- ▶ And those who do not ask, do not have (James 4:2 - 'You do not have, because you do not ask')

Prayer is not overcoming divine indifference

- ▶ Prayer is laying hold of God's willingness to give.
- ▶ EG. Mark 1:40-42 (ESV) '40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.'"

4. The GRANTING of God

- ▶ Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV) 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened....11 ...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”
- ▶ Prayer is important, ongoing, urgent

But is prayer really always so necessary?
People do get things without praying.

- ▶ Creation gifts are (often) given even to those who don't pray
- ▶ Matthew 5:45 ESV "...your Father who is in heaven.... makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

“**Good things**” (Matt. 7:11)

= “**Holy Spirit**” things (Luke 11:13)

- ▶ Luke 11:13 ESV “.....how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
- ▶ His "fruit" (Gal. 5)
- ▶ His "power" (Acts 1:8)
- ▶ His "kingdom" (Matt. 12:28; Rom. 14:17)
- ▶ His "gifts" (1 Cor. 12) - which include healing (1 Cor. 12:9)

What about non-granted prayers? (EG. Prayers for healing)

▶ A. It's not because God is unwilling

Mark 1:40-42 (ESV) '40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.'"

What about non-granted prayers? (EG. Prayers for healing)

- ▶ **B. It's because the devil is destroying (the will of God on earth)**

Acts 10:38 (ESV) God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

What about non-granted prayers?
(EG. Prayers for healing)

- ▶ **C. It's because the Kingdom of God has yet to come fully**

Matthew 6:10 (ESV) "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

What about non-granted prayers? (EG. Prayers for healing)

- ▶ **D. It's because of a hindering (lack of) faith-environment**

Not accusing the sick of lacking faith.

Too much unbelief around the sick can hinder healing.

(Mark 6:1-6)

5. The GRACE of God

- ▶ Matt. 7:11 "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

This is the personal relationship with God in which true prayer is possible.

- ▶ Matt. 6:9 (ESV) 'Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven..."'
- ▶ Prayer is more than reciting religious "words" (Matthew 6:7-8)

Prayer is relating personally, spirit to Spirit,
with the Living God.

- ▶ Romans 8:15 ESV you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
- ▶ John 1:12-13 ESV [12] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Acts 9:11 ESV

- ▶ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, **he is praying**..."

Experience the grace of God

- ▶ Enter a personal prayer relationship with God as "your *Father*"
- ▶ By receiving Jesus and His Spirit