

PULPIT COMPANION

PERSISTENT PRAYERS

MATTHEW 7:7-11

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09:45 AM

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In this powerful message, we're reminded of our divine identity as sons and daughters of the Most High King.

The central theme revolves around Matthew 7:7-11, where Jesus teaches us to 'Ask, Seek, and Knock.' This isn't just a casual invitation, but a call to action for believers. We're encouraged to approach God with childlike faith, trusting in His goodness and willingness to provide for us. The speaker beautifully illustrates this through real-life examples, showing how God often has something far greater in store for us than what we initially ask for.

As we seek God's guidance, He reveals strategies and opens doors we never thought possible. This message challenges us to press in, to persevere, and to trust in God's perfect timing and plan for our lives. It's a call to move beyond our comfort zones and to actively participate in God's work, even in areas where we feel inadequate or unprepared.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Proverbs 3:5-7
- Matthew 7:7-11
- Jeremiah 29:11
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Romans 8:14-17
- James 1:5
- Matthew 5:44
- John 10:10
- Ephesians 3:20
- Romans 10:9-10





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Embracing Our Identity as God's Children

Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us of our profound identity as sons and daughters of God. Just as the sermon emphasized our position as children of the Most High King, Paul assures us that we are co-heirs with Christ. Reflect on what it means to be adopted into God's family. How does this identity change your perspective on life's challenges?

Remember, as God's child, you have the right to approach Him with confidence, to ask, seek, and knock. Take a moment to pray, embracing your status as God's beloved child, and ask Him to reveal more of His father's heart to you today.

Day 2: Trusting in God's Plan

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 29:11

Devotional: The sermon highlighted the importance of trusting God, even when we don't understand His ways.

Today's verses encourage us to lean not on our own understanding but to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. God has plans to prosper us, not to harm us. Consider an area in your life where you're struggling to trust God. How might your perspective change if you fully believed in His good intentions for you? Challenge yourself to surrender this area to God today, asking Him for the faith to trust His plan, even when the path seems unclear.

Day 3: Perseverance in Seeking God

Reading: Matthew 7:7-11

Devotional: "Ask, seek, knock" – these words from Jesus echo the sermon's call to persistently pursue God and His will for our lives. Reflect on the story of Alicia's determination to attend the IT program despite challenging circumstances. How does her perseverance inspire you? What are you currently seeking from God? Remember, as today's passage assures us, our Heavenly Father delights in giving good gifts to His children. Be encouraged to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking, trusting that God will respond in His perfect timing and way.





Day 4: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Devotional: The sermon touched on challenging situations, like deportation and family separation.

Today's verses remind us that God works all things for the good of those who love Him and that He comforts us in all our troubles. How have you experienced God's comfort in difficult times? Consider how your past experiences of God's faithfulness can encourage you or others facing hardships now. Pray for those who are suffering, asking God to make His presence known to them and to use you as an instrument of His comfort and love.

Day 5: Being the Hands and Feet of Christ

Reading: Matthew 25:34-40, James 2:14-17

Devotional: The sermon's call to action – helping those in need, regardless of their background – reflects Jesus' teachings in today's passage. We are called to see Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, and to respond with love and practical help.

Reflect on the ways your faith has inspired action in your life. Are there areas where God is calling you to step out and serve? Consider one concrete step you can take this week to be the hands and feet of Christ to someone in need. Remember, our faith is made complete by what we do.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE : “ Ask, Seek, and Knock”

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His message and guide the discussion.

Key Scripture: Matthew 7:7-11

Discussion Questions:

- 1.The speaker mentions feeling like a "motherless child." Have you ever felt abandoned or forgotten? How did your faith help you through that time?
- 2.Reflect on the story of Alicia's perseverance. How has God used challenging circumstances in your life to develop perseverance?
- 3.The sermon emphasizes our identity as sons and daughters of God. How does this identity impact the way you approach God in prayer?
- 4.Discuss the concept of "asking." Have you ever asked God for something and received something different or better? Share your experience.
- 5.How do you typically "seek" God's guidance in your life? What practices help you discern His voice and direction?
- 6.The speaker talks about "knocking down barriers." What barriers in your life might be preventing you from fully receiving what God has for you?
- 7.How does the idea of trusting God (batach in Hebrew) challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?





Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice approaching God as a loving Father. Start your prayers by acknowledging your identity as His child.
2. Identify one area in your life where you need guidance. Commit to seeking God's strategy through prayer, Scripture study, and counsel from mature believers.
3. Is there a "door" in your life that needs knocking? Take one concrete step this week to press into what God is calling you to do or receive.
4. Reflect on your prayer life. Are you asking for "tech decks" when God wants to give you something greater? Consider how you might align your requests with God's will for your life.
5. Look for opportunities to be the "knock" in someone else's life this week. How can you help break down barriers for others in your community?

Key Takeaways:

1. We are sons and daughters of God, with the right to ask, seek, and knock.
2. God wants to give us good gifts, but sometimes we ask for the wrong things.
3. Seeking involves looking to God for strategies and solutions.
4. Knocking represents pressing in and overcoming barriers to receive God's blessings.
5. Trust in God is fundamental to our relationship with Him and receiving His guidance.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying for each group member, asking God to reveal His strategies, break down barriers, and deepen their trust in Him as their loving Father.

