

Ask, Seek, Knock!

DAVE D'ANGELO | YOUR KINGDOM COME WEEK 8

Listening carefully matters. If we don't, we may not hear what is actually being said.

MATTHEW 6:9-10

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

MATTHEW 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 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!

Are you a skeptic when it comes to prayer? Confused? Disappointed? Are you carrying a deep thought that prayer doesn't work for you?

“Your ears listen for the things that your heart craves for.” - Paul David Tripp

How do we go from asking, seeking, and knocking to our hearts craving?

The Blessed in His Kingdom are: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those persecuted for righteousness sake. (all heart conditions)

Does prayer really work? Will the door finally be opened for me? **You cannot disconnect Jesus' words about prayer from the condition and posture of our heart.**

Jesus came to help us experience His kingdom, right here, right now.

What do you hear?

Jesus is teaching us that:

1. Prayer transforms the things that our hearts crave.

- Prayer is not a cosmic vending machine.
- Jesus is talking about transformation that starts in our hearts.

Our Hearts:

- Deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9)
- The source of evil in our lives (Mark 7:20-23)
- The reason we turn from God (Hebrews 3:12)

• Submission comes before petition

- “Prayer does not equip us for some greater works. Prayer is the greater work.”
– Oswald Chambers

2. Prayer empowers us to walk the narrow path.

- The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. They saw the power of His prayers and wanted that same power in their lives.
- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9
- Prayer is deeply formative, empowering us to walk the narrow path and live, move, and have our being in His Kingdom, while here on earth.

3. Prayer is about communing with God, not just saying words.

- Prayer is how we get the privilege to soak in the presence of God.
- Prayer transforms our hearts to see the world through the lens of God’s Kingdom.
- Communing with God is about:
 - Freedom, not formula
 - Ears and heart, not just mind and mouth
 - Proximity and presence, not long-distance calling
 - Sitting with, not performing for

GUIDED PRAYER:

PSALM 141:

O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!
Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!
Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth;

keep watch over the door of my lips!
Do not let my heart incline to any evil,
to busy myself with wicked deeds
in company with men who work iniquity,
and let me not eat of their delicacies!
Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness;
let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head;
let my head not refuse it.
Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.
When their judges are thrown over the cliff,
then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.
As when one plows and breaks up the earth,
so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.
But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord;
in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!
Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me
and from the snares of evildoers!
Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
while I pass by safely.

PSALM 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;
and I will keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!
Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.
Confirm to your servant your promise,
that you may be feared.
Turn away the reproach that I dread,
for your rules are good.
Behold, I long for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!

