

# ASK, SEEK & KNOCK

*We often find that we ask questions because we have gaps in our understanding, our knowledge or we may have a need for something.*

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” - Matthew 5:3 NIV*

When we realise how much we truly lack, without God... we then can take meaningful steps forward in life.

**When we ask God, it should never be one and done. But a continual conversation, where we keep on keeping on until we see His hand of provision and guidance in our situation.**

*7 “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

**- Matthew 7:7-8**

***Distinctions: Ask - Seek – Knock***

*The distinctions reveal a progression in intensity and intention. God wants our requests to be meaningful and intentional!*

## ASK

**Ask:** *to say or write something to someone as a way of gaining information*

When we ask, we reveal our heart, desires and motives to God.

*“You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” - James 4:2-3 NLT*

### **Lessons to reflect and learn from:**

- 1) We have a proclivity to take before asking, and take what is not ours, generally out of jealousy.*
- 2) We have a tendency to only look out for our own interests rather than the interests of others.*

### **God desires for us to ask and receive, not to covet and take.**

- When we ask & receive, we trust God’s ability to provide.
- When we desire and take, we trust in our ability to selfishly gain and cause pain and destruction in the process.

## **Correct motives are key to having God consider our requests.**

*“As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.” - Acts 7:59-60*  
**NLT**

Stephen, out of a motive of love and forgiveness, asked God to not charge his murderers with sin.

Paul agreed with the crowd when Stephen was stoned. Could Stephen’s ask have been what launched Paul into his ministry?

**There is incredible power in asking God with the right motives. It has the potential to impact and change the world.**

## **SEEK**

**When we seek, we move from Desire to intention.**

***Seek:*** *to search for (someone or something) : to try to find (someone or something)*

The tense of Matthew 7:7-8 is *Present Active imperative.*

- Ask, and keep on asking.
- Seek and keep on seeking.
- Knock and keep on knocking.

*“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’” Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?” - Luke 18:1-7 NLT*

**Even an unjust judge can grant a just request. How much more will God grant the requests of His people who are persistent and diligent.**

*“In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” - Jeremiah 29:12-13 NLT*

To seek God properly is to prioritise Him.

*“I love those who love me; And those who seek me early and diligently will find me.” - Proverbs 8:17 AMP*

When we seek God, we must seek with persistence and we must prioritise Him.

## **KNOCK**

***Knock:** to strike something with a sharp blow*

**When we knock, we move from intention to action.**

*“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”*

*— Luke 11:9*

**Keep on** knocking and the door will be opened to you.

**Keep on knocking.**

*We aren't promised an open door when we start knocking, but that **THERE IS** an open door for us, which we will find as we continue knocking.*

Our attitude should be one that is persistent, insistent and unrelenting. We need to keep on knocking until we reach that open door.

***Persistence and consistency is key to finding the open door that God has for us.***

*“After two years went by in this way, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.” - Acts 24:27 NLT*

Paul had to endure many years in isolation and restriction. He would have spent much time knocking on that cell door waiting for God to open it. Yet he trusted God in his knocking.

*Don't be discouraged, keep on keeping on.*

## **CONCLUSION**

God knows all our needs and wants us to bring this to Him in prayer.

Our asking, seeking and knocking should be central to how we build our relationship with God.

### **We will find:**

- *Power in our asking when we have the right heart and motive.*
- *Effectiveness in our seeking when we seek persistently.*
- *God's open door as we continually trust and knock.*