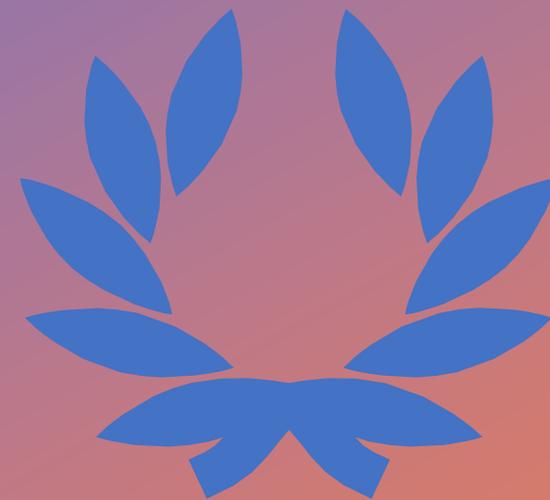


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 - o • Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer
Matthew 7:7-12 NIV



An Invitation To Pray Your Way Into The Presence of God!

Why Parables?

Matthew 13:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

Lifestyle of Prayer?

- Prayer is a lifestyle that:
- Requires that you speak (**ASK**) a devout petition as in adoration, supplication, confession, and thanksgiving
- Requires spiritual communion (**SEEK**) with God as in lifting your heart and mind
- Requires action (**KNOCK**) as in manifesting love for your neighbor

Lifestyle of Prayer

- ❖ We don't pray because of our needs
- ❖ In seeking we wait – quiet time
- ❖ We're reaching for Oneness above via oneness on earth
- ❖ Leave behind the human being – don't talk
- ❖ We act out the benefits of communing with God by being a blessing to man

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7-12 NIV (vs 7-9)

- ⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
- ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
- ⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7-12 NIV (vs 10-12)

- ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?
- ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
- ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7a NIV

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you;

- Continual prayer is required
- Portrays dependence on God
- Demonstrates our faith in God
- Ask in the name of Jesus Christ
- John 14:13-14 NIV

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7a NIV

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you;

- God is omniscient but He wants us to pray
- Talk is cheap
- Our answers are tied to our motives
- James 4:1-3 NIV

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

7 “seek and you will find;

- God is omnipresent but He wants us to seek His presence
- Our carnal desires are a curtain between us and His presence
- To the eyes of our hearts are unperceived greatness, beauty, magnificence
- God’s face – the brightness of His character and trusted presence must become our constant experience
- God desires our continual consciousness of His glorious greatness, abundance, overflows

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

7 “seek and you will find;

- 1 Chronicles 22:19

¹⁹ Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the LORD.”

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

7 “seek and you will find;

- Jeremiah 31:33-34

³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

⁷ “seek and you will find;

- John 14: 21-23

²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

²² Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

²³ Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

7 “seek and you will find;

- Christ in us desires that we seek God
- Not the mental and emotional effort to find something that’s lost
- The effort to seek God is a gift from God
- 2 Thessalonians 3:5 “May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”
- Colossians 3:1-2 “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

7 “seek and you will find;

- We can seek God through
 - the heavens telling His glory
 - He reveals Himself in His word
 - evidence of grace in our lives and in other people
 - fleeing every spiritual dulling activity
 - embracing activities that make us vitally sensitive to God’s presence
- Isaiah 55:6 “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.”

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7b NIV

7 “seek and you will find;

- 4 Reasons why we must seek God
- God will be found – 1 Chronicles 28:9
- We will be strengthened – 2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”
- We will live – Amos 5:4 “This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live.””
- We need not worry about what to eat or what to wear – Matthew 6:33

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7c NIV

7 “knock and the door will be opened to you.

- Continual knocking is desired
- Knocking is acting out the heart of God towards His people
- Knocking reflects what you have done with what you have
- Nehemiah 13:14 “Remember this good deed, O my God, and do not forget that I have faithfully done for the Temple of my God and its services.
- Knock with your service, your time, and your resources

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7c NIV

⁷ “knock and the door will be opened to you.

- Knock with your service, your time, and your resources
- Matthew 25:35-36

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7c NIV

⁷ “knock and the door will be opened to you.

- Knock with your service, your time, and your resources
- Isaiah 58:6-8

⁶ “The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free.

⁷ Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives.

⁸ “Then my favor will shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. I will always be with you to save you; my presence will protect you on every side.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7c NIV

⁷ “knock and the door will be opened to you.

- Knock with your service, your time, and your resources
- 2 Corinthians 9:9-12

⁹ As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

¹¹ Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

¹² So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

Ask, Seek, Knock – A Parable About Prayer

Matthew 7:7-12 NIV

Conclusion

- This parable uses of three styles of communication – verbal, non-verbal, action
- Be mindful of your words
- Wait upon the Lord and enter Oneness above
- Knock by demonstrating your love in deed and in truth – 1 John 3:18
- Matthew 7:12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”



THE OUTGIVERS MINIST

- Call or email using the information below to schedule an appointment to speak with any of the leaders.

- **Website: www.toms-lifestyle.org**
- **YouTube Page: The Outgivers Ministries (TOMS)**
- **Blog: www.outgivers.blogspot.com**
- **Facebook page: www.facebook.com/aboundinchrist**
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