

Tuesday Devotional

August 3rd, 2021

“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!” – Matthew 7:7-11

What is your favorite tool to use? Looking at your tool bag/bench, what tool do you like using the most? What tool do you use the most? In our passage today we are continuing to look at Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and how we are to live the Christian life. Today in particular, Jesus is once again reminding us of the wonderful tool of prayer. This tool is a powerful tool that the Lord has given to us to live the Christian life. There are two things I believe we can draw out of these few verses to help us in our duty of prayer:

First, we must pray because God promises to answer us. Looking at verses 7-8 we see Jesus uses three different commanding verbs to emphasize prayer. He uses, “ask”, “seek”, and “knock”. The idea is that we as God’s people are to be persistent in prayer. We are not to stop just because He doesn’t answer right away, we are not to stop praying just because we haven’t found the answer we wanted, and we are not to stop just because he doesn’t answer our knock right away. We are to pray to the Lord continually and persistently. Prayer is the tool which never changes the will of God but is the tool which God uses to change our hearts’ desires to His. Looking back at verses 7-8 we see the wonderful promise and truth that comes with prayer. The promise that He will answer us in our prayers.

The Second lesson Jesus gives on prayer is a parable of sorts. Jesus gives a contrast between God and man. He first gives the illustration of man and how even the non-believing parent gives food to their children. They don’t give them something that looks like food (a stone or a serpent). If then, these non-believing parents can act graciously and provide for their family, how much more will God our Heavenly Father answer our prayers and provide for us. Jesus is emphasizing the paternal nature of God in this parable. When we are found in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, God then is our Heavenly Father. Prayer then is coming before our Heavenly Father bringing our requests before Him and seeking His will.

Are you using the tool of prayer in your life? Have you grown weary in prayer? Have you lost sight of the purpose of prayer? Are you trusting in the timing of our Heavenly Father? Let us remember the promise and pray with confidence that the Lord will answer our prayers.