

PERSISTANT PRAYER
MATTHEW 7:7-11
Satilla Baptist Church
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I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Jesus moves now from a warning against judging others to an admonition to be persistent in our prayers. Is there a burden on your heart today? Are you burdened about a member of your family or a loved one, some situation in your life?
 - i. *“Are you weary? Are you heavy hearted? Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus, Are you grieving over Joys departed, Tell it to Jesus alone.”*
- b. Talk a moment about the mystery of prayer.
 - i. Sovereignty of God vs the Free will of man. If man has free will does my praying for someone really do any good, since they have the free will to choose to do whatever they want? Or is God Sovereign and going to make them do what He wills anyway?
 - ii. If God knows what we need and is willing to give it why must we ask?
 - iii. Why must we ask and continue to ask?
 - iv. Does prayer really change anything or since God is Sovereign is ‘What will be, will be’ going to happen regardless of what we do?
- c. God is Sovereign.
- d. Man does have free will.
- e. Prayer does change things, or perhaps I should say prayer changes us.
- f. There is a mystery to prayer. It in involves Faith, God’s Will, Our Will, Devil and Spiritual Warfare,
 - i. We are in a Spiritual Battle and Prayer is a weapon in that battle.

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ii. *Daniel 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."*

g. Now we turn a great principle in effective prayer taught to us by Jesus. This is Jesus speaking to us. That principle is the Principle of Persistent prayer.

II. THREE COMMANDS AND THREE PROMISES (7)

a. Three Commands

i. Ask (keep on asking) Power of our Words (Our Mouth)

1. *Proverbs 18:21 (ESV) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

ii. Seek (keep on seeking) Power of our Desires (Our Heart)

1. Words and Heart are joined,

2. *Matthew 12:34–35 (ESV) 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.*

iii. Knock (keep on knocking) Power of our Actions (Our Hands)

b. Three Promises

i. It will be given

ii. You will find

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iii. It will be opened

iv. Is this a blank check?

1. No.

a. Example Paul, God did answer Paul, but it was not what Paul desired. Something better. My Strength is made perfect in weakness. God gave Paul not what he wanted but what he needed. This is faith. Faith is not always about getting what we want, but accepting what we get.

III. THREE PRINCIPLES (8)

a. Everyone that asks receives

b. He that seeks, finds.

c. He that knocks, it shall be opened.

d. These are universal principles that apply to every part of life.

e. About being “Hungry”. About “Wanting” something and taking the steps and the actions to make it happen

i. *Example” Championship College Bowl Game Monday night.*

1. *You will probably hear some commentator say.. “They are just hungry for it” “They want it more”*

f. Jesus is teaching the idea of persistent prayer. Not stopping just because nothing happens on the first try, but being unstoppable.

g. Examples:

i. Parable of the Unjust Judge

1. *Luke 18 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying:*

“There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4 And he would not for a while; but

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afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

ii. Parable of the Nagging Neighbor

1. Luke 11:1-13

iii. My own example, Hung on RR Track.

IV. ONE PARALLEL

- a. Jesus compares from the lessor to the Greater. He compares our ability to give good gifts to our children to God's ability and character to give good gifts to us.*
- b. Remember, God does not always give us what we want, but He does give us what we need.*