

Persisting in Prayer
Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction: "How's your prayer life?" It's a question that makes many of us squirm. We don't like it. When we hear it, we have a sense that our prayer lives could and should be better. For many of us our prayer lives COULD and SHOULD be better, but feeling bad about our current experience is not the way forward. The way forward is in hearing afresh a grand invitation extended to us by Jesus and a great motivation to pray persistently. May God breathe new life into your experience of prayer as we look at an amazing prayer promise in the Sermon on the Mount.

Opening Discussion: What one word would use to describe your current prayer life?

Read Matthew 7:7-11

1. What is the grand invitation that Jesus extends to us in this passage?
2. All three of the verbs, "ask," "seek," "knock," are present tense verbs. What is the implication of this?
3. What insights do human parents give us into what God is like?
4. How would you summarize what Jesus says about what God is like in this passage?
5. How should the truth that Jesus teaches about God in this passage affect your praying?

Brian said:

Over time for one reason or another, far too many believers simply stop acting on this grand invitation. It does not ring true with their experience or they have simply qualified it away to the point that they stop asking, they stop seeking, they stop knocking. They stop boldly asking God for the things that are on their heart.

6. Have you personally had any struggles that keep you from truly believing and acting on this promise?

7. Have you experienced any disappointments with God concerning something for which you've prayed? If so, how has that affected your view of this passage?
8. How can we face such disappointments, but continue to believe and act on the promise Jesus makes in this passage?
9. What does your current prayer life say about how much you believe this promise?
10. What is one thing that you know to be God's will that you want to persistently begin praying for?