

***“This is the confidence we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 Jn 5:14)***

To continue on our meditation on the Sermon on Prayer—

□ **Mt 7:7**, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.”

The answer to prayer is certain. The very nature of God is to answer prayer. We “will” get what we ask for. We “will” find what we seek. The door we knock “will” open. Do not doubt God. Simple faith is not that easy in a scientific age. But there is no other way. It is God who is calling us to ask, seek and knock. What for, but to answer us? God delights in our asking and even more in His answering.

□ **Mt 7:8**, “For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

God plays no favouritism. Everyone is equally important and precious to Him. No doubt we need the prayer help of others but we do not need anybody’s recommendation. We can approach God directly. There is no “gift” called getting prayers answered. Can God be partial to His children? Elijah was not a deluxe edition. He was a man “with a nature like ours.” He prayed and God answered. The effective, fervent prayer of “any” righteous man avails much (Js 5:16-18). We are made righteous in Christ. Shed down all inhibitions and pray boldly.

□ **Mt 7:9-11**, “What man is there among you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake? If you then, being 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?”

God gives precisely what we ask. Whatever comes from the Father of Lights is “good and perfect” (Js 1:17). In the place of “good things” Luke writes “Holy Spirit” (Lk 11:13). The best of gifts! The Promise of the Father! Pray daily for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. God will give the Spirit without measure because He is “able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!” (Eph 3:20).

*O Thou that hearest prayer! Attend our humble cry;  
And let Thy servants share Thy blessing from on High:  
We plead the promise of Thy Word;  
Grant us Thy Holy Spirit, Lord!*

*(John Burton, Sr., 1773-1822)*

Almighty God, we worship You as the Lord of all resources. We worship You as the Giver of all good gifts. We worship You as the Helper of all who cry unto You. We worship You as the Keeper of all those who run to You for refuge. We worship You as the Redeemer of all those who trust You. We worship You as the God of miracles for all those who have come to their wits' end. We worship You as the Great Physician of all those who come to You in pain. We worship You as the Deliverer of all those who look to You in despair.

Father God, we thank You for the privilege that's ours that we can come to You in prayer anytime for any need. You are greater than our greatest need. You are greater than our greatest problem. Your resources are inexhaustible. Your riches are inestimable. Your wisdom is unexplainable. Sorry, Lord, we often forget this and come to You only when we have no one to turn to. We forget that Jesus ever lives at Your right hand to intercede for us. The materialistic world has blinded our eyes to see Your heavenly riches. Our education and knowledge have excluded You from our minds. Forgive us, Lord, this foolishness.

*You are my everything; You are my all;  
You are my everything, both great and small;  
You make my life complete, everything new;  
You are my everything; You are my all!*

Father God, You are worthy of all praise, honour and power. We are so unworthy to approach You. But Lord, in Your grace and mercy, You are inviting us to *ask* You and *seek* Your face and *knock* at Your door for Your help in our affairs. Thank You, Lord, for this privilege. We praise You that You play no favoritism. You don't regard us according to our merits but You accept us on the merit of Jesus Your Son and our Saviour. Help us lift our eyes off our condition and fix them on You and You alone. Grant us holy boldness, O God!

Dear Lord, deliver us from all negativism the devil has injected into our veins. He keeps on painting in our minds a distorted picture of You. Help us not to give place to him but turn a deaf ear to all his lies and blasphemies. Feed us richly everyday when we meditate on Your Word. Fill us overflowingly everyday when we wait before You. Free us totally from our inhibitions everytime we seek Your guidance. Fuel us sufficiently everyday when we approach You for strength and energy to face challenges. Yes, Lord, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Amen!

*(Jn 1:17; Psa 17:7; 18:30; 27:7,8; 145:18; Prov 18:10; Ex 15:26; Rom 8:15,16; 11:33,36; 15:7;  
Heb 4:15,16; 1 Jn 2:1,2; Dan 2:20-22; 2 Chr 20:12; Eph 4:27; Isa 40:31; Phil 4:13; Rev 5:12)*