

CONSISTENT AND PERSISTENT PRAYER

Mini sermonette

About 5 years ago my wife decided that she was going to chase after God. I didn't really get it because I thought we were already chasing after God. I was a bible teacher, we went to church, we were both involved in small groups, we were doing all the right things. But something was happening inside of her that made her want more than the status quo. She would say...do you want to go and see this guest speaker with me or go to this revival meeting with me? I'd be like no... I'm doubling up on the pig skin this afternoon... I've got a date with the 49ers and a bag of pork rinds... but you go out and do this God thing...and she would.

Week after week, month after month she would go and seek God wherever she heard that he was at. And she would come home and tell me these amazing stories of experiencing God's presence from Fremont to Fresno and everywhere in between. She started praying in a way that was totally foreign to me...her prayers were becoming more passionate and personal and I remember one night she got out of bed and I said...where are you going? She said, I'm going outside to talk with God.

...and this became a habit for her...she would CONSISTENTLY and PERSISTENTLY pray night after night, sometimes both morning and night, and her spiritual life was becoming deeper by the day.

But it was also becoming so deep that I was having some problems relating with it...I remember thinking... nobody can really be praying that much...nobody can really love God that much...and in some ways I was jealous...I would think...this is a part of my wife's life that I am not a part of.

And the Lord laid on my heart that He was her true love...that he loved her infinitely more than I ever could...that if she put him first in heaven, that I would be

first on earth...And that he loved me the same way...and it was time for me to start chasing after him too.

Wives, don't be dismayed if your husband's are trailing behind, because they will catch up...we're guys, we're slow...continue to pray consistently and persistently for us to be the men that God has called us to be...and we will become those men...

MY STORY

COMMUNICATION

There is no doubt that the most vital key to our relationship with God is communication - and communication is a two way road. But as Christian's we can forget that. Sometimes we get the mindset that God is Ronald McDonald, or we treat him as the Burger King rather than the King of Kings... we just order what we want then we are on our way.

We think that if we shoot off a 5 second prayer into the atmosphere that we've done our duty. Most of us never wait for a response... or dialogue with God, Or in some cases actually contemplate what it is that we are actually asking for. Looking back at life, aren't you glad that some of the things that you prayed for never came into fruition?

For example...

When I was in elementary school, I used to pray that the Bee Gee's would come to my school and give me clothes like them and we would do a concert during lunch Thank you Jesus for not answering that prayer...

When I was in the 10th grade, I prayed that a meteor would crush this one particular kid that just got under my skin...could you imagine the poor boys mom looking for him after school? The principal approaching the car I'm sorry...we've had a little accident today and believe it or not. but a hurling mass of rock from

space broke through the atmosphere, and crushed your son right in the middle of SAT'S. but don't worry there will be make ups...

Thank you Jesus for not answering that prayer...

One time when I was about 16, I prayed that my dad's head would fall off so he couldn't see my D in chemistry...thinking back...that could have made my teenage years really awkward. Having a dad with no head? What would I have done when I needed advice about girls or gas money...?

Thank you Jesus for not answering that prayer...

In the late 70's, I found myself praying to be just like my tv icon. He was smart, witty, cool, down with the ladies, and he loved to eat lolly pops...

Could you imagine how ridiculous I would look if Jesus answered my prayer and made me just like Kojak?

Thank you Jesus for...

Getting back on track, when we treat our prayer life like a drive thru window, we miss out. We miss out on the journey, the discovery, and great insights that will spur us on to spiritual growth and greater intimacy with our father. God tells us in Jeremiah 33:3 to call to him and he will tell us great and unsearchable things that we do not know.

In order to hear, we need to take the time to listen. In order to see, we have to take the time look. Being consistent and persistent is what the secret to a healthy prayer life.

Which brings us to our text...

Matthew 7:7-11 NIV

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who

knocks; the door will be opened. Which of you if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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!

That is from the New International Version...the NIV

I'd like to read it to you again in an alternate version that is literally taking the theological world by storm...it is the most accurate translation to date...

Matthew 7:7-11 NMV

You want it you'll get it; look for it and you'll find it; knock and GOD WILL answer. Because everyone who asks gets; Everyone who looks finds ; I will answer everyone who knocks on the door!

And believe me...it's all good!

In the way how my simple mind works...I need to simply break things down in the simplest of forms in order to make it more simple...so look at our key words

Want - Get

Look - Find

Knock - Answer

WHO IS THIS PROMISE FOR?

Everyone - Gets

Everyone - Finds

Everyone is Answered!

It is obvious that Jesus encourages consistent and persistent prayer. The tense of the Greek verbs in v.8 designate continued action. This means we must keep on asking, seeking, and knocking.

Asking implies consciousness of need, and the belief that God hears our prayer.

Seeking implies earnest petitioning, along with obedience to God's will.

Knocking implies perseverance in coming to God, even when he does not respond quickly.

But do we really get what we ask for?

Christ's assurance is based on

- 1) Seeking first the Kingdom of God
- 2) Recognizing God's Fatherly goodness and love
- 3) Praying according to God's will
- 4) Staying in fellowship with Christ

HAITI SURVIVOR

A MAN who appears to have been buried under the rubble of the Haitian earthquake for an entire month has been miraculously found alive, doctors said.

Emaciated and with festering open wounds on his feet, Evan Muncie, 28, said a man in a white coat brought him water as he lay under the devastated marketplace in Port-au-Prince.

Doctors said the rice seller was suffering extreme malnutrition and dehydration but did not appear to have any injuries caused by the rubble.

His family said he had been missing since the January 12 earthquake, but it could not be confirmed how long he was underneath the rubble.

Mr Muncie was brought in to a University of Miami field hospital by people who found him in the marketplace.

He appeared disoriented and may have been hallucinating, CNN reported.

He apparently told doctors someone in a white coat kept bringing him water.

Mr Muncie's mother was quoted as saying: "I thought he was dead, but God kept him from dying."

Consistent & Persistent Prayer



Matthew 7:7-11

Consistent & Persistent Prayer v.7-8

“Ask and it will be given to
you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be
opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives;
he who seeks finds; and to him
who knocks; the door will be
opened.” NIV

Consistent & Persistent Prayer v.9-11

“Which of you if his son asks for bread,
will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a
fish, will give him a snake?

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!

NIV

Consistent & Persistent Prayer v.7-8

**“You want it you’ll get it; look for
it and you’ll find it; knock and**

**GOD WILL answer. Because
everyone who asks gets; Everyone
who looks finds; I will answer
everyone who knocks on the**

door!” NMMV

Consistent & Persistent Prayer v.7-8

“You want it you’ll get it; look for
it and you’ll find it; knock and

GOD WILL answer. Because
everyone who asks gets; Everyone
who looks finds; I will answer
Everyone who knocks on the
door!” NMMV

**Consistent & Persistent
Prayer v.9-11**

“It’s ALL Good!”

Consistent & Persistent
Prayer

“Do We *Really*
Get Whatever We
Ask For?”

Consistent & Persistent Prayer

✧ Seek first the Kingdom of God
(Matt 6:33)

✧ Recognize God's goodness
(Matt 6:8)

✧ Pray according to God's will
(1Jn 5:14)

✧ Stay in fellowship with Christ
(Jn 15:7)