

Asking, Seeking, Knocking

KEY PASSAGES: 1 Kings 18 | 2 Thessalonians 5:17

INTRO

We give up way too early. If we could see the spiritual realm of our lives, then we would probably see that we stop just short of what we are praying for. The problem is that if we could see into the spiritual world with our natural eye, then we would need faith.

Studies show that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to become at a level of mastery associated with being a world class expert in anything. Yes, you have to have talent, but talent will only get you so far.

As we saw last week in our church, we have and are seeing God do some incredible things. In 19 years, we have never seen such a concentration on prayer. Every time someone shares something I am almost laughing, because we may ask, "Why did God do that?" and the question that we need to be asking is, "Why NOT?"

THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CHURCH

- Kip is believing God for a gym, and God has given him a word. Last week he shared his testimony, and God used it in a great way. Jim and Lisa Carmichael were saved last Sunday after the service because they had such a connection with Kip.
- David is going into business with Casey Jackson to build tiny homes. This will provide housing at an affordable rate, and there have been multiple hooks-ups already just in this church.
- Denise is believing God for Wrays Drug Store to open a coffee house. After church last week, God crossed her path with a guy in this church that hadn't been here since we started talking about the coffee house. He like a second son to the man who owns Wrays.

- As your pastor, I am praying over the Ty Cobb Hospital to even see if it is something that we need to be praying for.
- Jimmy Edwards will be traveling with the Silver Ring thing, and will have to raise his own support.

SERMON POINTS

Elijah declares a drought.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, but God had a plan of how he would take care of him. God told him that he would drink from the brook and the ravens would feed him, and that happened, but then the brook dried up because of a lack of rain. And then God told him to move on, and he had prepared a widow to feed him.

1 Kings 17:10-24 He saw a widow gathering sticks to use for a fire to cook on. Elijah asked her for bread and water, but she only has enough flour and oil for her and her son. Elijah tells her to trust the word of the Lord, so she went...ate for many days, the flour bin stayed full and the oil didn't dry up. The son became sick and died.

- Why was she able to ask the man of God to raise her son from the dead?
- She trusted the word of the Lord in something as simple as a handful of flour and a little bit of oil. It might have seemed small but to her it was the last thing they had to eat.
- If she had not trusted God in the small thing, she couldn't have had the ability to trust God for the big thing.

Elijah has a word from God that there was going to be rain.

1 Kings 18:1 Rain is on the way. Jezebel was killing the prophets of God, and Obadiah had hidden 100 prophets of God in two caves.

v. 21-45 Make a choice on who you think is God. 36 self-assured that you have done everything that you were supposed to do. You have exhausted all of your resources. 41 there is a sound of the abundance of rain 42 Elijah began to pray for rain. 43 go up and look toward the sea, and if you see anything, and he commanded him to do it 7 times 44 but on the 7th time, there is a cloud as small as a man's hand coming out of the sea 45 so it happened that the rain came.

- What would have happened if he had only gone up the mountain 6 times? There would have never been a miracle of rain.

We allow our circumstances to get between God and us instead of putting God between us and our circumstances. It is so easy to give up on dreams, give up on miracles, and give up on promises. We lose heart, lose patience, lose faith, and like a slow leak, it often happens without us even knowing it until our prayer life gets a flat.

The reason that we give up so soon is because we feel like we have failed if God doesn't answer our prayer. That isn't failure. The only way you can fail is if you stop praying.

Joshua 1:3

Everywhere the sole of your foot touches I have given it to you, as I was with Moses, I will be with you. The promise was given to Moses first, so if it was given to Moses, it is also for you. That's not just Moses' promise, that promise is to every one of us.

Matthew 7:7-8

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

Three Different Steps to our Prayers based on Matthew 7:

- **Ask-** We can ask without even knowing the Lord. We can ask for whatever we want, but that doesn't mean that God is going to give it to us.

- **Seek-** When we begin to seek the Lord, we begin to understand him and his heart. We begin to understand what it is that he wants us to do. When we seek, we begin to have wisdom, and with wisdom, we begin to pray the right prayers. We begin to prepare for what the answer is because we have gotten to know the one who gives the answer.
- **Knock-** We don't just knock on a random door, and say, "I wonder who lives here." We knock on the door because we know who lives there, or we have a purpose to know who lives there. When we go to someone's house, we have either been invited or we have a purpose for showing up. If we are not sure that we have the right door, then we will be timid about knocking on the door, but if we know that we are at the right door, then we can knock on the door with authority.

We cannot pray with authority until we have a word from God, but once we have a word from God, then we can keep knocking and knocking and knocking. Until we get a word, we need to pray for a word.

Start reading the promises of God in first person:

1. Find the promises of God
2. Remove the name and place your name there
3. Thank God for the promise
4. Begin to act on the promise

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