

## SOTM pt 11 – Winning At Prayer

Pastor John Carmichael

**[Mat 7:7-8 NASB95] 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

- God will not take you above your prayer life. In Christ, your prayer life will determine what you receive, find, and have opened to you.
- This is the second sermon on prayer in this series because this is the second time Jesus mentions prayer in the Sermon On The Mount.
- One commentary state that there seems to be a progression in these verses. Asking is one level. Seeking is another level. Knocking is another level.
- Asking (desire) is the key to receiving. Seeking (rising up) is the key to finding. Knocking (pushing past resistance) is the key to having doors open.
- Doing nothing and expecting something is foolish.
- What is clear is that Jesus wants to know how to receive, find, and have doors opened to us.

**What are the keys to winning at prayer?**

**Here are three keys to winning at prayer.**

### **I. God wants us to pray with intention.**

- a. [Mar 1:35 NASB95] 35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left [the house,] and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.
- b. We don't find time to pray. We make time to pray.

### **II. God wants us to pray with passion.**

- a. [Heb 5:7 NASB95] 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.
- b. [1Sa 1:10, 12-13 NASB95] 10 She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. ... 12 Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk.
- c. To pray with passion is not always emotional, but it is done with intensity.

### **III. God wants us to pray with persistence.**

- a. [Jas 5:16-18 NASB95] 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.
- b. [1Ki 18:42-44 NASB95] 42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees. 43 He said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go back" seven times. 44 It came about at the seventh [time,] that he said, "Behold, a cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare [your chariot] and go down, so that the [heavy] shower does not stop you.'"
- c. [Luk 18:1-8 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she

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kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

- d. [Luk 11:1, 5-10 NASB95] 1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." ... 5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you [anything.]' 8 "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him [anything] because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.
- e. The idea that God only wants you to pray one time is ridiculous.
- f. Pray and keep on praying. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking.
- g. Your persistence in prayer is your faith working and it connects you to the reward.

- **God wants us to win at prayer by learning to pray with intention, passion, and persistence.**
- **Schedule your prayer life. Give your prayer life some energy and effort. Make a decision today that you are going to have a life of prayer not just emergency praying.**