



**“Seek more Jesus” – Minister Greg Parra
Youth Sunday, April 14, 2019**

Scripture Reference: ⁷ “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **Matthew 7:8 (NLT)**

Overview:

Every day presents a fresh opportunity to seek a closer relationship with Jesus – and the more you have of Jesus in your life, the better your life will be. So don’t settle for just occasional encounters with Jesus in some parts of your life. We should keep seeking more of Him until our whole life is saturated with His power.

The reality is that we all need more Jesus in our lives. Whether you are going through a crisis or everything seems to be working out for you; regardless of your age, your finances, your education; we need God

The amazing thing is that God isn’t hiding from us. He wants us to get to know him. He wants us to seek Him all the time. He wants a deep, personal, intimate relationship with him.

So how do we go about that? We can we begin to do, or do more off, that will bring us into a closer relation. How do we pursue more of Jesus?

1. Ask Him – “For everyone who asks, receives.”

⁷ “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. v. 7

¹¹ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. v. 11

“..The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.”
Psalms 84:11(b)

2. Seek Him - Everyone who seeks, finds.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

3. Knock and don't be afraid to step in.

4. Be persistent - “Keep On”

Jacob gives us the example of this in Genesis 32 (MSG)

5. Don't settle for the minimum

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

6. Be Compassionate.

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister[a] in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. 1 John 3:17-18 (NLT)

If we want to get closer to God, we have to start by being compassionate to His children.

7. Use the brokenness as a tool to heal.

God uses everything in our lives for His glory. None of your trials are ever wasted.

If you are going through something right now, you can find comfort in Psalms 34:18

NLT - The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

MSG - If your heart is broken, you'll find God right there; if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath.

The way we get closer to Jesus in our brokenness is to have a Joseph attitude:

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” Genesis 50:20 (NLT)