

Seeking and Finding

Matthew 7:7-11

- I. **At the heart of asking, seeking, and knocking is the belief that God is good. He is my Father with only the best intentions for me (John 3:16; Romans 8:31-32; John 10:10).**
 - A. I can ask God for a fresh revelation of His goodness and kindness toward me. Moses asked to see God's glory, and He got a revelation of God's goodness (Exodus 33:18-19; Ephesians 3:14-19).
 - B. We can speak God's goodness over ourselves. The things of the Kingdom are activated when we speak them (Numbers 6:22-27).
 - C. "Lord, have mercy on me" prayer
 - D. Remembering God's everyday goodness with gratitude prepares the heart for asking, seeking, and knocking.

- II. **God hides things so we can find them. "It's the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings" (Proverbs 25:2).**
 - A. We are a "royal priesthood"—sons and daughters of the King (1 Peter 2:9).
 - B. Hide and seek is a very relational game. God lets Himself be found; and, in the process, we become more like Him.
 - C. "Call to me, and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).
 1. Unsearchable: to cut off, make inaccessible
 2. Out of reach from our skills, character, or qualifications (Heb. 11:1-3)

- III. **Escaping the spirit of despair with the shield of faith**
 - A. "Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking" (the present imperative command).
 - B. We keep pursuing. Our Father in heaven always gives good gifts (Matthew 7:9-11)
 - C. Extinguishing "all the flaming arrows of the evil one" (Ephesians 6:10-13, 16)
 - D. "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:13-14 NASV).

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