

MATTHEW 7:7

(David Jeremiah) I must confess to you that prayer can be the hardest work I do, and I suspect there are times you feel the same way. Even the disciples who lived and walked with Jesus must have had many of the same frustrations with prayer you and I have. Why else would they have come to their Master one day and asked "Lord, please show us how to pray"?

Mathew 7:7-11, these three little words *ask* and *seek* and *knock* are all imperatives. They're commands from the Lord Jesus. He didn't say "If you feel like asking, then ask." He didn't say, "If you get around to it, why don't you seek?" Or, "If you are in the mood, you may want to try knocking." No, Jesus was telling us, "This is My command to you: Ask, seek, and knock. If you want Me to act on your behalf, then that's how it works. My requirements is that you simply *ask*." Whatever we need, we must ask for it. And if we don't, we're disobedient to Jesus.

Those three little words in Matthew 7:7 are not only imperatives, but in their original Greek tense they have a kind of continuing action connected with them. Jesus is saying *Keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking*. Don't ever stop; just keep doing it. Always, whatever you need – just ask.

These commands in Matthew 7:7 come in a certain kind of progression, with each one a little more intense than the one preceding it. *Ask* is strong enough, but *seek* is stronger, and *knock* is even more intense. In case you're explaining this passage to your children or someone else, and they don't seem to be grasping the main point of what Jesus is saying, tell them you'll show it to them in a special code. Have them write down those three basic commands in Matthew 7:7 in a list.

Ask

Seek

Knock

Then take a closer look at the first letters of each word in the list. And there you have it! Simple as that: Just ask!¹

¹ David Jeremiah, The Prayer Matrix