

THREE-FOLD FORMULA IN GETTING ANSWERS TO PRAYER

TEXT:

Matthew 7:7-8:

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Luke 11:5-10:

5 And He said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.



INTRODUCTION:

Prayer turns God loose. When we turn to Him, He comes to us.

James 4:8: Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

The Bible says:

James 4:2: Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Philippians 4:6: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

When this text was given by Jesus, He emphasized in His gracious way the certainty of prayer being answered. We are to look for answers to our prayers. After all, the answer is a vitally important part of prayer.

Matthew 7:7-8:

⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Everywhere in the Word of God is the call to prayer and the certainty of the answer.

Jeremiah 33:3: Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

John 15:7: If ye abide in Me [Jesus], and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

We're expected and commanded to pray.

1 Thessalonians 5:17: Pray without ceasing.

Luke 18:1: And He [Jesus] spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

James 5:13: Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Matthew 5:44: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 26:41: Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.



Jesus' earthly life was one of unceasing prayer. He prayed before sending out His disciples. He prayed at the grave of Lazarus. He prayed for Peter that his faith fail not. He prayed in the mountains. He prayed before and after His greatest miracles. He prayed in Gethsemane. He prayed on the cross for His enemies. Our blessed Lord expressed total dependence upon His Father — and how much more should we!



Jesus gave us three different lessons in prayer – three types of prayer, and the results are certain in each case.

1. **“ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE.” “EVERYONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVETH.”**

He has a particular purpose in speaking so unconditionally. Let us never dissolve these words with words of man's wisdom. **It is for us to observe that from the very beginning Jesus does not say that everyone shall receive anything and everything he asks for.** We may read this into the interpretation, but Jesus does not say this. Knowing from your experience that you have not gotten everything you have asked for, notice closely what Jesus did say:

“Everyone that asketh receiveth.”

Here He stops. **“He that seeketh”**, again He pauses. Why? Why does He stop short of saying that the asker and the seeker get everything? Please remember that Jesus is teaching the A.B.C.'s of prayer. We all know the worst thing that could happen to a beginner, in prayer life, would be that he should receive everything wished for.

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Jesus doesn't tell us what we will receive; but we will receive something good and beneficial. If this seems like a disappointment to you, or a let down, listen . . . If God gave us everything we asked for, we would be ruined. Many prayers are very selfish.

James 4:3: Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Some are prayed contrary to God's Will.

1 John 5:14: And this is the confidence that we have in Him [Jesus], that, if we ask any thing according to His Will, He heareth us:

ILLUSTRATION:

Many times we pray for things that are very selfishly inspired. As in **James 4:3**, He puts it this way: **That ye might consume it upon your own lusts**. It is difficult sometimes to keep our old self life out of our prayers. Many of us are praying for a Revival, only to have a bunch of good feelings or to turn in a good report to the District Supervisor, or to fill up those empty seats that are taunting and mocking us.

I knew of a lady who was praying for her daughter to be saved and her son to get back to God for only selfish motives. I had asked her: “Do you really long for these children to get right with God? Do you want them saved for the glory of God, or to make your home a more comfortable place to live? Are they bringing a lot of reproach to your testimony before the church, and ruining your reputation?” She had to admit that these searching questions had put the finger on her real motive of wanting prayers to be answered for their salvation. So I told her this. *‘If you really love their souls for Jesus and want them so much to miss hell and go to Heaven that you are willing to fast and pray and get under the burden of their lost condition, God will hear and answer your prayers.’*

Some of you are praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit; and this is good, for it is Scriptural. It is just as important for you to be filled with the Spirit of God as it is to be saved — because God commands it. But what do you want this experience for — a lot of good feelings? Or, so you won’t appear inferior to other Christians in this Spiritual Grace?



Simon the Sorcerer had an unholy motive for wanting to be filled with the Spirit of God. The apostle Peter turned the search light into his very soul and discovered wrong motives there. However, for us to cry out: *‘Oh, Lord, I long to be filled with Thy Holy Spirit, for I am so ashamed of my powerlessness in witnessing for You, and my emptiness is a poor testimony to Your saving grace. I am so useless to YOU Lord without the power of the Holy Spirit. I want to be filled with the Spirit so I can love You more, understand Your Word better, and serve You more effectively. I am willing to lay aside anything and everything that would hinder me from meeting Your conditions to being filled.’*

You will be filled and have other prayers answered in short order, or very quickly, by becoming very open, honest, and unselfish in your requests.

ILLUSTRATION:

In the life of a small child, there is a considerable gulf between its brain and its mouth. One comes to his father and asks for his razor to shave himself. He knows what he wants, but does not know what is best. He little realizes that the razor may mean death. Children want the chance to drive Daddy's car — therefore the child would be asking amiss.



James 4:3: Ye ask and receive not , because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

To give a boy all the money he asks for, or allow him just the companions he wants, or just the education he wants, would be the surest way to wreck his life. A wise parent never gives the child everything he desires; – so be just as grateful to God for not giving us everything we ask.

Remember, at the start of Christian life because we are babies, Jesus would first teach us a carefully guarded truth, but a wonderfully encouraging prospect. We will notice here, Jesus does not even mention the conditions to prayer's answered as in:

John 15:14: Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:7: If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

All of this is sure, yet it is not the truth for the beginners in the life of prayer. Why? Because a child is not acquainted with all the Father's Will and His Words. Often God's Will is a mystery, and what would the new child of God do until he caught up with mature Christians?

Jesus is here telling babes in Christ, 'though you know not how to pray as you ought you shall receive something – something good'.

Matthew 7:11: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him?

So, everyone that asks receives something.

Not only does He teach that a man who is asking according to His Will receives what he asks for, but that every child of God is rewarded with something good. He tells us we are never to go away empty handed, but that the prayer is to be a distribution

station of Heavenly blessings. I know of no encouragement greater to any child of God than this.

In order to confirm the certainty of answers to our prayers, the Lord proceeds in:

Matthew 7:9-11:

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father Who is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him?

As enlightening as this parable is, so also is it saturated with deep spiritual truth. The Lord would remind us again that the prayer of a child of God asking is as in the natural life, a child asking its father.

Prayer is only active when the child of God is in union, in love, and in communion with his Father. It is no great wonder an earthly father, as best as he is able, grants his son that which he asks. At least, he will not give a stone for bread, nor a serpent for a fish. How much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to those who live in His Presence and are near His heart.

Prayer is only active when the child of God is in union, in love, and in communion with his Father.

2. “AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH”

Matthew 7:8: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Let us notice that the pronoun changes from “everyone” to “he”. Thus, Jesus is limiting the number of petitioners who will truly prevail before God in prayer. Also, notice that there is no indication that the seeker is going to find all he seeks. But, something better is promised, and that is the Will of God.

Jeremiah 29:13: And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.

Hebrews 11:6: But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He [God] is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

This shows not everyone will seek Him. Seeking requires more diligence than asking, as in the parable of the lost coin and the pearl of great price. Knocking is clarified in **Luke 18**:

Jesus is the Door – and we shall receive encouragement by **everyone receiving something**. This stirs us to seek and we shall find. Jesus is the door at which to knock importunately to enter the richest fullness of abundance of Christ.



The knocker is one of strong faith, who knows the Will of God. When in the place of crisis or stress or pressure, he does not worry, fret or brood — neither does he chafe, scheme, or plan on what to do. He knocks at Heaven’s Door and looks to Him to do the doing.

Often we hear that God helps them who help themselves, but this is not always so. God helps those who cannot help themselves — those who turn His power loose by prayer and faith. Let us, now, look more closely at this THIRD STAGE in prevailing prayer.

3. PREVAILING PRAYER

a) **Luke 18:1-8:** Preserving Prayer

1 And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge His Own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though He bear long with them?

8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

Here Jesus is telling us to *never give up*. Also, that continual knocking (persistent prayer) pays off.

b) Luke 11:5-10:

⁵ And He said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.



⁹ And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

¹⁰ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

The Lord Jesus didn't just make up this parable of the PERSISTENT poor man at midnight. He did not need to make it up. He was Himself in all points made like unto that poor person. He, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9: For ye know the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

Our Lord was an experienced preacher and tells this pathetic and most amusing story.

a) In this very simple incident in the village life, Jesus had likely remembered such a scene as this took place often times. Late at night there arrived unexpectedly at the door of a peasant's cottage, a friend on a journey. He was using the cool evening hour for greater comfort in his travels. In this little cottage, he found a welcome, but he also created a problem. He wanted

some supper, but there was no food left. The host was no doubt a poor man and was sympathetic to the hungry guest. Rather than allow his friend to go away hungry, he went to the neighbor to borrow three loaves of bread. What do you think that guest felt when he heard that continual knocking at the neighbor's door because of his need?

- b) Jesus told also of a man who had just bedded down with his family. Most people in that day lived in one big room. It was the living room, bedroom, kitchen, pantry, and closets all combined in one. Each child was well tucked in on their pallet on the floor. The father was getting comfortably warm under his covers and was just about to fall asleep when a knock was heard at the door so loud that it aroused him. He tried to pretend he was asleep, but the knocking continued and he angrily denied the person outside his request by saying: ***trouble me not; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.***

We see that the well fed and warmly laid down householder was completely at the mercy of the insistent neighbor at his door. Although he didn't want to get up, he must; for the KNOCKER keeps on KNOCKING and would not give up. Just let him keep it up loud enough and long enough, his request will be met.

- a) All he had gotten was a sleepy grunt, but he knocked again and again. The voice was now a little more gruff, perhaps saying: ***What do you want?***

Luke 11:6-7:

⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

Even though a blunt refusal is all he got, the determined man didn't give up easily. He had tenacity and AUDACITY, which simply means: "SHAMELESS PERSISTENCE". What his friendship couldn't secure, his sheer SHAMELESS SEEKING AND KNOCKING got him the needed answer.

- b) Listen to how the Lord Jesus puts it:
Luke 11:8: Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity, he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Now, two are made glad; the householder that he was gone, and the neighbor who got what he needed.

The key word “IMPORTUNITY” is certainly implied in the story, but not that alone in the original language which Jesus spoke. It has something more in it than that. It will be best rendered: ***Because of his shameless insisting and disturbing, he will arise and give him as many as he needeth.***

The neighbors were made to hear this disgraceful noise in the midnight hour. Perhaps they even looked out their windows and shouted. ***Cut out that noise, you're disturbing the peace!*** It was nothing short of a shameless KNOCKING that the determined man gained a favorable response. To be SHAMELESS in the way and to that degree was the man's wisdom. This is our Lord's way of telling us to:

Never mind who cries shame, keep KNOCKING, shame or no shame, until you get your answer. For, many give up too soon; some while the answer is on the way, and they are not there to receive it.

- a) Jesus is not here saying that God is someone we have to pester, tease, beg and plead with to get an answer to our prayers. Neither is He a reluctant giver. It isn't that God wants to put us off, but it is important to us that we exercise our faith and our spiritual muscles by works. Faith and works go well together. Faith without works is dead, being alone. We are told in:

James 2:17: Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

- b) In this parable, Jesus shows the determination of a desperate seeker, and how he obtained what he was after. There are many times we have someone come to us and we cannot help them, but we know somebody who can. That somebody is our Lord. We are to go to Him and come unexpectedly, remembering that delay is not denial.

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- c) The one knocking was admitting that he knew his friend had ample provisions to meet his emergency need. He also knew his friend did have a kind heart and was usually dependable. He also knew the timing was poor in his coming for help, but his compassion for the hungry would not let him be denied.

That is why the **THREE STAGES OF PRAYER** are given here by our Lord. It wouldn't be good for us if the Lord just dished out to us freely everything we desired.

It is just like a whole lot of us American people these days who get the children everything they want and when they want it. They become spoiled youngsters and unthankful, too.

Jesus is saying here that God is able to supply our needs. But we need to wholly trust Him. When delay makes us impatient and we are tempted to get worked up and resent Him for it, that is the very thing He knew was in us already. He must purge that out to make us a better Christian, and stronger besides.

1 Peter 1:7: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

See how the Lord Jesus makes the application to this parable. He asked them a question which should give them confidence in their praying:

Luke 11:13: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?

God cannot help the man who does not pray. When he prays, he gives God a chance to work. Jesus, here, gives us the A.B.C.'s of prayer. It is His place to teach us, but our place to learn. It is shocking to learn how many are ignorant of the power of prayer.

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not pray.**

Said a lady, "I know nothing about trusting the Lord for everything. I have always been accustomed to earning my own living with my own hands and brain. Now that I have come to the end of my life, such a thing as God supplying my needs direct from His own heart of love is an unknown experience. I have never known what it was to have a direct answer to prayer from God, such as you say is so".

If we go to God first and not last, we will know better than any His mighty power. Our very needs are but the challenges He awaits.

Malachi 3:8: Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.

Nehemiah 2:4: Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of Heaven.

Even before answering the King as to why he was sad in countenance, he first went to God. Come anytime, anywhere — on the street, at places of business, work, temptation, or trouble.

Jesus teaches that because of importunity, prayers are answered which otherwise would not be granted. God gives many things because He is the God of grace.

He gives all things freely to enjoy.

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Romans 8:32: He that spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Hebrews 6:7: For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

Matthew 5:45: That ye may be the children of your Father Who is in Heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

But there are special bounties reserved for those who pray importunately. Samson knocked and God gave a gushing well of water to come from a jawbone.

Judges 15:18-19:

¹⁸ And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of Thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

¹⁹ But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.

When he knocked, God opened – the thirsty man was refreshed. He was so thirsty that he nearly fainted. Then when praying is in desperation, that is what the knocking kind of prayer is, it shall be opened. Prayer becomes the passage way from spiritual thirst to spiritual refreshing. So many know only the thirst, only the distress, but not the satisfaction of having God meet that need.

When we grow prayer-less we grow powerless. Our deeds and words will become worthless. Here stands a heavy freight train at a steep grade. A hundred stalwart men put their hands and shoulders on the cars — they wear out, straining every muscle, but it does not move an inch. They give up in despair. Along comes the clear green signal for the engineer to proceed. He pushes in a little stick, turns power loose, and starts the heavy load upgrade.

Lazarus is dead — many mourn. Jesus at last comes — gives the clear signal, ***for your sakes I prayed***. When Jesus got through, out came Lazarus. It is as easy for God to work a miracle as for you to draw a breath.

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It is not more doers needed today, but more prayers. The church has multitudes who know how to work in their own power, but few know how to bring down God's power. Many are doing their own work, not having time to pray for God to work.

What a privilege to have Jesus deal in person with a soul we love. It is an honor to have Jesus work in our lives, in our church; to have Him give sweet messages to our discouraged loved ones as no one else can do; and then to have Jesus, with all His gentleness and compassion, bring that soul to Himself. This is Revival!

I hear Him say,

"My child, you do not know how to convict of sin, but I do."

"I will work as you ask, seek, and knock."

"You shall receive, shall find, and it shall be opened."

"You do not know how or when to reprove, but I do."

"You cannot win a soul to Me of your self."

"You cannot live the victorious life over the world, flesh and devil — but let Me do it through you."

"The battle is not yours, it is Mine" saith the Lord to Jehoshaphat as recorded in **2 Chronicles 20:15**

There are obstacles in your life which are insurmountable to you. There are hearts breaking with burdens too heavy to bear, but Jesus said, ***"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."***

Matthew 11:29: Take My [Jesus] yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Genesis 18:14: Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

It is easy for God to do hard things. A prayer-less man is a powerless man. A prayer-less man cannot know God, for his capabilities are small, and he is weak. Here is the woman of Samaria. Jesus said, **if you knew . . . you would ask.**

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John 4:10: Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the Gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee Living Water.

Manasseh, wandering from God, lost his throne and was carried away captive. In his distress, he sought the Lord. The Lord heard, performed a miracle and restored him:

2 Chronicles 33:13: And prayed unto Him: and He was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD He was God.

Each answer to prayer is a new personal introduction to God. When we cry to God and see Him do the very thing we asked for, this makes Him wondrously real to us. So, the very miracles God performed in Egypt were in response to the cries and prayers and tears of the Children of Israel! God said,

Exodus 3:7: And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

And in:

2 Kings 20:5: Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of My people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the House of the LORD.

Jesus is illustrating the effectiveness of persistent praying by telling of the FRIEND who had a FRIEND come to him at midnight who couldn't supply his need, but went to another FRIEND who could. First, anyone coming to our home at that unsightly hour would have to be a real good friend, if we would even consider letting him in. But LOVE is in his heart, and even though his supply is exhausted (that is why we need to ask the Lord daily to give us this day our DAILY BREAD, as Jesus taught us). We have nothing to give the hungry who come to us expecting, otherwise. Even though he is rebuffed, he is not discouraged in his knocking. FAITH kept him knocking.

Luke 11:3: Give us day by day our daily bread.

In this scripture, we see the priceless lesson from the lips of Christ on the success of KNOCKING or never give up praying. Notice the request is not for himself but for another. Are we willing to go to all this extra effort for others?

Real Christian FRIENDSHIP is tested here. Many will come hungry and discouraged to us; will we let them down? Will we leave them empty, bewildered and hurt? We should show hospitality of our Master because we belong to HIM. But we have nothing to give until we have received from our Lord, the True Bread of Life. Jesus LIVES IN US, and if He is in control, in the first place, ruling on the throne of our hearts, He will give through us.

His disciples said in:

Matthew 15:15b-18: Send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give YE them to eat. And they say unto Him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to Me.

Many times we look to our own limitations and think that we are unable to help our loved ones when JESUS is the actual supplier. We need but to go to Him.

Friendship, by its very nature, consists in LOVING, rather than in being loved. In other words, FRIENDSHIP consists in being a true FRIEND. This means giving unselfishly and not in only receiving from others much of the time. Often we are asked for something suddenly and unexpectedly, and feel unequal to the task. It is only our emptiness that drives us to Jesus the more often.

God's door is never barred and shut, but always open; and He never slumbers or sleeps.

Psalms 121:3-4: He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He Who keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He Who keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

What is more: He is a FRIEND who will never deceive us by giving us a stone for bread. Second, it is LOVE which urges us to cry out to God for help for another. Third, it is Humility to admit we have nothing to give. Then the FAITH and confidence that help is to be had by those who will not give up knocking. Jesus said; ***“yet because of the importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.” Luke 11:8b*** Oh, how I love that.

God often weighs the motives in our petitions.

There is nothing which gives more PRIORITY in our praying than to ask for someone else. God often weighs the motives in our petitions. When precious souls come to us needing SALVATION, HEALING, THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT, to be SANCTIFIED, to be DELIVERED from OPPRESSIONS of satan, we can't in our own power but we can go to Him who can.

The starving and hungry multitudes of precious souls often come to an indifferent church to meet their needs. They cry out: Can you give me any hope? I am bound by habits and appetites which I have no power to break. Will we say: I am sorry, but you see, we do not believe in the old-fashioned altar calls any more. We do not believe in getting down and praying out loud until we have prayed clear through in victory. However, if you will just sign this card, shake our preacher's hand, and join our church, we will do the best we can to give you a good church home.

But I am in need of deliverance, cries the world. I long for the old-time miracle-working power to hit me as it did my parents years ago. I am a dope head, alcoholic and the great coils of the serpent are winding about me and crushing my life away. Is there any hope for me? What will we offer this hopeless world? Will we say I am sorry for you, go to the psychiatrist, the drug center, the doctor?

The world says: But I read in the Bible the Lord casts out unclean spirits and heals the sick, and saves the lost from all their sins. But the present day church says: These things died out with the apostles. Why DID IT DIE??? TELL ME!!! I must ask such a church: Do you have the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Well we don't believe in those talking in tongues doctrine, or in miracles, or healing, or in being freed from all sin. I am sorry, but our shelves are all bare of this, also. Or, will we be honest and say: Just a minute world, you have caught us unprepared. But we have

a FRIEND, His Name is Jesus Who is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is treasurer of the storehouse and there is plenty. Tarry here until we go and ask Him for a full supply.

CONCLUSION: Come saints, to God's storehouse, and get what you need to give to those in need. Tell the Lord how empty you are, and your need to be filled. There are hungry, needy souls at your threshold with outstretched hands, and your cupboards are bare. Modernism can't help them, backslidden churches cannot fill them with anything but chaff which cannot satisfy their appetite. Cold formality can never bring what these souls need.

Please give me three loaves:

SALVATION

SANCTIFICATION and

the BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT.



God gives what we need, no shortages up there.

We're not seeking the popular way, nor cutting corners, nor standing high in the opinions of fellow Christians. I want reality, a FULL heart, Lord. You'll receive all of your needs.

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center

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