

Foundations For Living

Laying Foundations Today For a Brighter Tomorrow

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ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

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How has God answered prayer in your life? Has it been instant, over time, or are you still waiting?

In **Matthew 7:7-8** Jesus gives us a pattern to follow in prayer. This is not what many refer to as The Lord's Prayer, but a step by step instruction on how to gain answer to prayer. ***"Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."***

There are certain conditions to this kind of prayer. We must pray first with the authority of Jesus' name (**John 14:14**) and in faith (**James 1:6-7**) and even then, the 'how' and 'when' He will answer is up to God. This is particularly evident when we are praying for salvation for friends or family members. The process may be very slow, but He does say ***"it will be given"*** and His time table is always perfect.

So while we are waiting, we are instructed to 'seek'. He says ***"seek and you will find."*** What will we find? Perhaps sin in our own lives that has not been brought to the cross. Or perhaps

God is leading us to resources that might help us find the answer. The first place to seek is in the Word of God.

Often our seeking may bring us to a place that requires action, so God then instructs us to ***"knock and the door will be opened."*** When he brings us to the "door" it is our decision to open it or walk away.



If I ask the Lord to help me with my financial problems, rarely will He send an unexpected check in the mail. As I **seek** His answer, He may direct me to a class or a financial counselor for help. If I perceive that this is God's answer to my prayer and follow His lead, I get the instruction I need, follow it and reap the benefit. I can also choose not to follow through with the instruction God has planned for me. He still answered my prayer, I just chose not to follow.

Several years ago I put my house up for sale in an attempt to move closer to my work place and avoid the long commute. I prayed, but month after month, there were no offers. At the same time I was looking for a house in the city in which I was working. I looked at several houses, but none would meet my needs. Over time, I found myself dissatisfied with the

with the city as well. During this time frame, I cultivated several new friendships close to home. The Lord led me to a church that I began to fall in love with. I found myself appreciating the home He had given me more and more.

Psalm 37:4 tells us to ***"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."*** Over the year that my house was for sale, God changed my desires and I took the house off the market. His answer to my prayer was "No, to the move," but "Yes" to what He knew was best for me and my family.

Just a few years later, I found a good job, locally, that perfectly matches my talents and my needs in a greater way than I had ever imagined.



God tells us to ***"ask, seek and knock."*** He does the rest. He knows the big picture and answers according to His will and for our ultimate good.