



**Fellowship of Christian Firefighters  
International**

Ministering to First Responders Since 1977

**Bible Lessons – Commands of Christ**

2-11-2019

## Ask, Seek, Knock

Subject: Ask, Seek, Knock  
 Instructional Setting: Relaxed quite atmosphere  
 Number of Students: As many as the facility will accommodate  
 Time: As long as needed to ensure understanding

Objective:	Bible References:
For Christian firefighters and first responders to be equipped to understand the basic principle of prayer and how effective it can be in the Christian's life.	<p><b><u>Primary</u></b>            Matthew 7:7-8</p> <p><b><u>Additional</u></b>            Luke 11:9            Philippians 4:6            John 15:7            I Thessalonians 5:17            I Timothy 2:1-4            Jeremiah 33:3</p>

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Theme: Ask, Seek, Knock

Life Principle: Prayer works, if you choose to use it in your life.

Translation: ESV

**Introduction:**

Many an instructor has challenged his/her students to take what they have learned in the class room and apply it to their fire service career. In fact, instructors regularly encourage their students to see if what they have taught really works. This can work for any tool or principle, but let's examine our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). I remember the very first lessons I learned on using an SCBA. First the instructors taught us the consequences of not wearing our masks. As we sat there in the thick smoke, every student was coughing and gagging with snot running out our nose. Then we learned how to use the mask and became proficient in its use. When we received our company assignments, we put in to practice everything we had learned. The more we used it in real life, the more proficient we became until it was second nature.

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray and made it a commanded duty (Matthew 6:5-15). When we pray as God has taught us, He is honored, and we shall be rewarded.

**Color Code**

**Orange** – People and pronouns

**Blue** – Time and chronology

**Green** – Places

**Brown** – Events

**Red** – Reoccurring words or themes

**Purple** – Main idea, keywords, or running concepts

**Definition:**

Prayer – The art of talking to God. We can talk directly to God because of the completed work of Jesus Christ, who intercedes on our behalf.

**Lesson – Repent**The Command

Matthew 7:7-8 – *“**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; the **one** who seeks finds; and to the **one** who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

- This is a call to action by Christ. Like a conditional covenant, this call to action should stir believers to fulfill Jesus's command and reap the rewards.
- Choosing to do nothing will ultimately lead to reaping the rewards of the practice, nothing.
- We should expect God to do something in our life each day. Prayer is how we let God know what is on our mind.
- The reward is open to any believer who chooses to obey the command.

- This command comes on the heels of our Lord teaching us to pray. Review Matthew chapter 6:5-15 to understand how Jesus wants us to pray.

**Note:** This is a model prayer of Jesus and there is no indication for us to recite it word for word.

Companion Verse; Luke 11:9 – *“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”*

### Digging Deeper

- Notice how this section is a call for the believer to go directly to God with his/her request. There is no mention of the need to go to a priest with our requests who will then go to God. Check out the time Jesus healed the leper in Mark chapter 1 verses 40-45. He told the man to go to the priest to show himself cleansed of the disease. Here, we are told to pray to God. Do not let anyone tell you any differently.
- The passage deals with an exhortation or persuasion to persistent prayer.
- All three imperatives are present tense which indicate to the believers that we should be in the state of continual prayer and not just a one and done prayer.
- Matthew Henry writes this; “Here is a precept in three words to the same purport, Ask, Seek, Knock; that is in one word, Pray; pray often; pray with sincerity and seriousness; pray, and pray again; make conscious of prayer, and be content in it; make a business of prayer, and be earnest in it.
- As a beggar continually asks food, work or money we should be asking our Heavenly Father our requests. Remember, it brings Him honor because we admit we cannot accomplish something, but He can.
- Ask – represents our desire for God to support us in some way.
- Knock – we are asking to enter God’s abode.
- Seek -desire to find something of great value.

### Other Verses

John 15:7 – *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”*

I Thessalonians 5:17 – *“Pray without ceasing,”*

I Timothy 2:1-4 – *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Jeremiah 33:3 – *“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”*

Philippians 4:6 – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*

**Application for First Responders:**

Now that we have learned what Jesus expects of His disciples, we need to focus on accomplishing this task. How we pray; when we pray; and how much time we commit to praying should be answered prior to moving on in life.

Prayer is one of the greatest weapons we have a soldier for Christ, we need to learn how to effectively utilize this weapon. (Ephesians 6:18)

**Discussion Questions:**

- How would you characterize your prayer life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In what ways can you improve your prayer life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How much time should you devote to your prayer life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who is the greatest example in your life of a prayer warrior and why?

**Bible Memorization:**

Philippians 4:6 – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* ESV

**Prayer Requests:**

That I might learn to pray more and focus less on my wants.

