



A Systematic Expository Study of the Word of God

CHRIST'S PROMISE FOR SEEKING GOD BY PRAYER

Matthew 7:7-11

Christ's statements in our text are simple and sublime. These are not words to hurriedly read through and forget. They are words that open our eyes to heaven's provision and they disclose the great storehouse from which all our needs for spirit, soul and body are supplied. Learning from the Lord on prayer as declared in these verses, living as He has taught and practising the precepts without turning to the right or left hand will bring the supernatural into our natural lives and open both the windows and gate of heaven to us. These verses will make the present and the future much brighter than the past, however bright the past has been.

Praying to God has been a common practice since the creation of man. Both saints and sinners have always prayed. However, prayer had become a ritual among the heathen and a religious duty among the Israelites (Matthew 6:5-8). Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, the Light of the world, now throws light on the great privilege of praying. He clears the way to the Father and removes all misconceptions concerning prayer. He lifts us up from the dark lane of beggars pleading for crumbs to the blessed presence of the Father, confidently asking for promised blessings. He has taken away the seat and place of an intermediary and He beckons us to come directly to the Father. He gives each of us a special place in the family and now we can all ask, seek and knock.

ALL-EMBRACING PROMISES TO SEEKERS OF GOD WHO PRAY

Matthew 7:7,8; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Ezra 8:21-23; 2 Chronicles 20:1-4, 14-24; Daniel 9:3,4,20-22; Psalms 34:10-19; 69:32-36; 77:1-12; Zechariah 8:21-23.

“Seek, and ye shall find. He that seeketh findeth.” Seeking is used in the sense of praying, as the scriptures quoted above show. Praying in ignorance is like seeking for a precious object hidden in the dark. We must turn on the light so we can see clearly while we seek diligently (Luke 15:8,9). Ignorance of the promises of God, the Fatherhood of the merciful and loving God, the faithfulness of God as Father, the relationship of sonship to the heavenly Father, keep us from seeking with faith that cannot be denied (Romans 9:31,32). God's promises for all true children of God who pray to Him and seek His face, are all-encompassing. The promises are many and varied; they provide for both our natural and spiritual needs. Our common needs as well as special or peculiar needs are all provided for. Early in life or late in life, when we are young or when we are growing old, even at death when changing our earthly address to an eternal residence, appropriate promises abound. In company of people or in solitude, in the family or in widowhood, while sick or healthy, weak or strong, in adversity or prosperity, in all situations or circumstances, God's promises are ours to experience. Circumstances should not embitter our lives when God is our Father as He has thought of all things we would ever need in our pilgrimage until we see Him face to face in heaven. Read the Bible and see the promises. Note the conditions attached to the promises. Keep those conditions as patients keep to the doctor's prescription. Believe God as much as you believe a loving and faithful earthly father. In fact, you ought to believe God more than any human friend or father. Trust God implicitly without any shadow of doubt. Seek and you will find; pray and God will answer.

ALL-CONSUMING PERIL FOR NOT SEEKING GOD IN PRAYER

2 Chronicles 16:7-13; 1 Samuel 28:3-8; 1 Chronicles 10:13,14; 2 Kings 1:2-4; Isaiah 8:19,20; 31:1-3; Jeremiah 10:21; 2 Chronicles 25:14-16,20; 33:9-13; 1 Chronicles 15:12-14.

All men feel their insufficiency and see the need to ask for help at different times in their lives. Being ignorant of who the true God is and the adequate provisions He has made for them, unbelievers seek and pray to gods who **“have mouths but speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: they have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat”** (Psalm 115:4-8). Others sell themselves, spirit, soul and body to Satan through a covenant. They **“seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto wizards”**, they seek a **“hiding place”** in a **“refuge of lies”** (Isaiah 28:15-20; 8:19,20; 47:11-15). Even sinners and unbelievers who seek help, healing, power, protection, prosperity and any other thing from evil spirits and Satan are severely judged and punished for doing so (Deuteronomy

18:9-12). Seeking for any blessing must be only from the true God, the God of heaven, the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ and our Father. It dishonours God when any child of His forsakes Him and looks up to Satan or Satan's messengers for help. It exalts the power of Satan above that of God. Such a person who belittles God in his heart and, by his action, magnifies Satan is worse than an atheist. The danger and damnation of such a person is a million times greater than the pain or the problem he is trying to overcome.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY FOR SEEKERS OF GOD IN PRAYER

Matthew 7:7,8; 1 Chronicles 16:11-29; Job 5:8,9; 8:5-7; Psalm 63:1-5; Lamentations 3:22-25; Isaiah 55:6-13; Hosea 5:15-6:3; 10:12; Luke 11:9-13.

Prosperity is a desirable thing if it is all-inclusive. Those who are rich in gold but are not rich in grace, godliness and goodness cannot have complete happiness and fulfilment. ***"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"*** (3 John 2). That is true prosperity and that is what the Lord has promised and provided. This is what we can seek with great, unshakeable assurance that we shall find. A life that is rich in faith and faithfulness will be fruitful, fulfilled, full and flourishing. His soul will not know the plight of spiritual famine and his body will not experience the pain of economic drought. As he abounds in the fruit of the Spirit, so will he have abundant fruit in the work of his hand. Those who pray and seek God with the whole heart will not seek Him in vain. ***"I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain"*** (Isaiah 45:19). All who truly seek the Lord ***"shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of his house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures"*** (Psalm 36:8). The provision of God is so abundant and inexhaustible that none of us ought to lack spiritually and in any area of our lives. We can be holy, healthy and happy now and throughout our lives. ***"Seek, and ye shall find"***.

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