

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 8 THREE LEVELS OF PRAYER

Matthew 7:7

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

While Scripture memorisation and meditation are vital to a Christian life, the same can be said of prayer. God speaks to us through His Word, and we speak to Him through our prayers of praise, petition, and intercession. Without the Bible, prayer has no direction; and without prayer, the Bible is less dynamic. In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord outlined three level of prayer that should characterise the prayer life of each and every believer. In His words, we are to “ask seek ... Knock.” Effective prayer is wrapped up with God’s will for our lives. If we know His will in a matter, we “ask”. If we do not know His , we are to “seek”. If we know His will but the answer has not come, we are to “knock” until the door opens. Many believer never rise above the first level of prayer to the level of seeking, much less to the level of knocking.

The Level of Presenting a Petition “Ask and it will be given to you”

We must ask. Ironically, as simple as this may seem, some find it difficult. There are those who are too proud or too self-sufficient to ever ask anyone for anything. Thus, for them, asking God is something almost unthinkable. On this first level of prayer, those praying ask and have the promise of God that they will “receive.” When you know God’s will in a matter, you can ask and have the confidence that you will receive. However, there are times when we have asked for certain things and did not receive them because they were contrary to God’s will for us. Quite honestly, in retrospect across the years, I’m sure that we are thankful God did not give us all the things for which we sometimes selfishly asked Him.

The Level of Pressing a Petition “seek and you will find”

There is a higher level of prayer than that of simply presenting your petition before God, and that is the level of pressing your petition. This is the prayer we pray when we do not know the will of God in a matter, and we seek until we find it. This is a deeper and more mature level of prayer because it puts self aside and is motivated by a deep desire to want to know the will of God in a matter. It involves an intense search for the heart of God coupled with a regular pattern of Bible reading. The promise is that we will find God’s perfect will for our lives if we don’t give up.

The Level of Persisting a Petition “knock and the door will be opened to you.”

When we reach a higher level of prayer, it becomes readily apparent who is serious and who is not. To keep on knocking requires tremendous perseverance. We pray on this higher level of prayer when we know the will of God in a matter, yet the door remains closed. We keep on knocking. We never give up because we hold to God’s promise. “the door will be opened to you.” There are times in our Christian experience when we ask God in prayer for certain things, and it seems He does not answer us. However, He always answers. Sometimes the answer is direct: we pray and almost immediately we see the answer as requested. Other times our request is denied: God answers in a way that denies our request because He knows what is best for us. There are also times when the answer is delayed: God seems to put us in a holding pattern, and the answer eventually comes according to His timetable instead of ours. And then there are answers that are different from what we expected. Just because He answers our prayers in a different manner than we anticipated does not mean our prayers are not answered.

As you memorise this verse this week, meditate on these three different levels of prayer - and don’t simply ask, but seek. And, yes, keep on knocking. Never give up. We have His precious promise: **“it will be given to you ... you will find ... it will be opened to you”**.