

LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND

Part 4 – Never Give Up On God
Matthew 7:7-11

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We can do no more than **pray** until we pray.

I. DON'T QUIT **PRAYING**.

- A. *Matthew 7:7 “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you.”*
- B. *“Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask.” (Billy Graham)*
- C. *1 Samuel 12:23 “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in **ceasing** to pray for you...”*
- D. *James 4:17 “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”*
- E. Think of the three verbs in this way:
 - 1. We “ask” to demonstrate our **dependence**.

Six values which define Sugar Creek (for the full list:
www.sugarcreek.net/our-mission)

- a. **Truth** Matters.
- b. Total **Dependence**.

2. We “seek” to discover God’s **will** for us.

Romans 8:26-27 “ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us...²⁷ in accordance with God’s will.”

3. We “knock” to show our **determination**.

F. Why are we to keep asking, and keep seeking, and keep knocking?

1. Because of **what** God will do.

Matthew 7:8 “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

2. Because of **who** God is.

Matthew 7:9-11 “Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

II. WHY DOES GOD SOMETIMES **DELAY** HIS ANSWER?

- A. God sometimes delays the answer in order to answer it **better**.

Matthew 11:11 “Truly, of all men ever born, none shines more brightly than John the Baptist.”

- B. God answers prayer when His work is **completed** in the problem.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

- C. Sometimes God waits so that **we** can see just how **important** the request really is.

III. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN GOD IS **SILENT**?

- A. Make sure **you** are not the reason for the silence.

