



## It Shall Be Opened!

How many of you have knocked, hoping that some strange, obscure door would finally give way to the treasure in store just behind it? How many times have you knocked on God, hoping to receive something great in return? I am sure that we all have, but I am more sure that the greater part of us have given up and turned away from our knocking, only to NOT have received of God's goodness. Yes, some of us have received here and there, but for the most part, many have not. Why is this? I say it is because man stops knocking just when he should keep it up.

(Mat 7:7) Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye



shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

*Jesus clearly stated that if you knock, it shall be opened unto you.*

What shall be opened unto you? Whatever it was for which you were asking. Whatever it was for which you were seeking. If this is so clear, then why do so many fail to have the thing desired not given? Then why do so many fail to have the thing sought after not found? And why do so many fail to have the thing

knocked after not opened unto them? These questions become especially vital upon reading the next verse.

(Mat 7:8) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

The starkness of the word "shall" penetrates our minds as we read the man asking, seeking and knocking SHALL receive. If he shall receive, and he does not, whose fault is it? Is God's Word wrong, miss-quoted, and out of step with our day and time? Just what is the reason? The reason isn't quite given here, but part of it is.

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(Mat 7:9-11) Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? {10} Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? {11} If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

The “stone” mentioned in verse nine refers to the one used to upon which the stacked bread is placed as it sits in the cupboard. This stone is thin, light and wide as the bread, and it becomes brown stained after so much contact with the bread, so much so, that it looks just like a piece of bread. Would the father give this bread-looking stone to his hungry child? Not at all. There are fish which look like fish, but are actually serpents, but the fisherman knows that it is not a fish to eat.

Then the next, most powerful part of this verse comes, gloriously stating that our God will only give us good things that ask. What does this mean? It means that God isn't the source of our troubles if our prayer doors aren't opening. It means that we are, but what about our part if amiss? What about our part is in need of tuning?

(Mat 7:12) Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Verse 12 tells us something fascinating, yet seldom observed.

*Most people want to get ahead in the crowd, be it business or personal, but you can't get ahead in anything if you don't abide by this nearly*

*hidden principle.* Verse 12 teaches us again of the principle of sowing and reaping. Nothing in life is free. The earth sells all of its goods, no exceptions. Even if your political leanings are towards equality and major portions of the populace being given expensive chunks of goods for no cost at all, you must understand that the earth sells ALL of its goods. In other words, if you don't sow, you don't reap. If you don't pay for something, you don't legally have any right to it. You must buy your goods from our earth. Jesus said, “Therefore, all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, in other words, regarding the things that you would like from man to reap, you do these things to them. If you cheat them, you will get cheated too. If you steal from them, you will be stolen from too. If you lie to them, they will lie to you too. This is a law that you cannot

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change.

We learned that part of the problem with us not having our doors of prayer opened to us does NOT lie with God. Therefore, the whole part of this problem must lie with us.

We find reference to this same subject in Luke.

(Luke 11:9-13) And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. {10} For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. {11} If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? {12} Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? {13} If ye then,

being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

But this time, one more item of deceit is added – that being an egg and scorpion. The meaning behind this added part is that there are scorpions whose bodies look like eggs. These scorpions are white or brown. When you cut into this egg-looking insect, the insides are yellow, just like an egg. No father would give this nastiness to his child. What the Father gives in this case is the wonderful give of holy spirit (small “h” and small “s”). No matter what evil doctrines today’s churches teach, every man has right and privilege to God’s good gift of holy spirit. No man will be turned down.

From these two sections of seeking and finding scripture, we

have learned that *God gives only good things*, and that every man who asks will receive the wonderful gift of holy spirit. We have also learned that God is ever-willing and able to supply all that we ask, and that He shall supply, but that, if and when we are NOT receiving, it is our problem, not God’s. What is it that prevents us from receiving God’s goodness in these cases?

Now, let’s back up a few verses in Luke chapter 11 to find our answer.

(Luke 11:5-10) And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; {6} For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? {7} And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door

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is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. {8} I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Can you imagine the poor friend in need coming to your door? What a vivid story! Some poor soul comes knocking on his friend's door, asking for three loaves of bread – complete with a story of his journeying friend needing food. It was a nice enough story, but I suppose that he could have had any sort of story to tell his friend. The emphasis is not on the story being told to his sleeping friend, but on what follows.

His friend told him, basically, to go back home. He said that his door was shut, and that he was in bed with his kids and didn't want

to rise and help him. But finally, he did get up. Why? Jesus tells us in the next verse. Jesus clearly said that the friend would not rise from his bed and give to him just because he was his friend. That simply wasn't good enough. But why did he rise? "Because of his importunity!"

***This importunity, or impudence, this repeated KNOCKING AND KNOCKING AND KNOCKING finally roused the poor friend out of bed – just to stop the KNOCKING.***

And, he gave him those three loaves too.

How many times have you knocked and knocked, only to stop knocking and turn away, empty handed? Is this your lot in life? How many times have you asked and asked, only to turn away, empty handed. How many times have you sought after and

sought after, but have not found, only to turn away empty handed? In all of these cases, your lack of reception of God's goodness has NEVER been on the fault of God. It has always been on your lack of importunity. You haven't asked enough. You haven't sought after enough. You haven't knocked enough.

{9} And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. {10} For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

I propose to you that you must become more importune, insistent, and convincing to God. You must convince God that your thing desired is something that you MUST have. Don't be one of those who ask, seek, even knock a little, but because the

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door is not immediately opened, you turn away in despair. Oh, it SHALL be opened unto you, no doubt, but you can't give up in despair.

(James 1:6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Don't give up. That's how God works! Ask, ask, ask, and ask some more, UNTIL THE THING DESIRED IS RECEIVED.

Why? *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.* God ALWAYS does his part.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown