**Opening Statement:**

* There might not be a more *reassuring*, *comforting*, or *faith building* passage in all of the Sermon on the Mount or arguable scripture in regard to living and facing a world full of uncertainties and threats such as the world and time in which we live.

**Important Biblical Principle:** Ultimately there is one thing that matters in getting through *LIFE*!

* Life is a journey filled with and full of perplexities, problems, uncertainties, sadness, good times, blessing, and joy too; however unsurprisingly, to God, full of difficulty.
* This being the case, the Bible emphasizes what really matters in life. It is not so much the various things that take place (the various trials), but rather ***our readiness*** to meet the various trails we face. Ex: A great example is Abraham.

**Abraham:**

* Abraham sums up in his life how to approach this life, and its various trials, with readiness.

**Look at Gen. 12:1-4**

* Abraham leaves everything he ever knew (close friends and family, where he grew up, and his father’s house and land). Furthermore, he took his wife and some family with him on his journey in simple obedience from a trust in God and believing some promises of God given to him.

**Statement:** Abraham may not have known where he was going, but ***he did know with whom he went***! Abraham knew he was not alone.

**Stop and Contemplate Some of God’s Characteristics**: God Is…

* Infinitely *Omni-Potent* (all powerful) and can do all things (Gen. 18:14; Matt. 19:26).
* Infinitely *Holy* and *Righteous*, and does only what is right (Ps. 99;9; Deut. 32:4).
* Infinitely *Good*, in that all that he does is perfectly right and good at all times (Lk. 18:19).
* Infinitely *Wise*, God knows perfectly what is right and good (Rom. 16:27; Job. 12:13).
* Infinitely *Loving*, God eternally gives of himself for the good of others (1 John 4:8).

**The Final Reminder Found in Our/The Great Commission**: Matt. 28:16-20

* **V. 18** “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to … (Me)?” **V. 20** “Behold, … (I) am with you always, to the end of the age?”

**Knowing These Truths Lets Read our Test**: Matt. 7:7-11.

**Important Truth:**

* God gives us one of the most ***lavish invitations to pray*** and to ask of God for good things, with a PROMISE that he will give them!
* What we have just read is one of the greatest invitations in the world to pray, and yet, tragically, the church often has very little inclination to pray or faith that God is a good father that will give his children good gifts.

**Six Encouragements from Jesus to Motivate Us to Start Praying! -** Matt. 7:7-11

1. **We are Invited to Pray. – 3 Times**

**Vs. 7-8:** 7“***Ask***, and (1) it will be given to you; ***seek***, and (2) you will find***; knock***, and (3) it will be opened to you. 8For everyone who ***asks*** (4) receives, and the one who ***seeks*** (5) finds, and to the one who ***knocks*** (6) it will be opened.

* Jesus’ repetitiousness is meant to signify to us that he means this!!! Ask your Father for what you need. Seek your Father for the help you need. Knock on the door of your Father’s house so he will open and give you what you need. 🡪 **3 Invitations to do so!!!**
1. **We are Made Promises if We Pray. – 7 Promises**
* Above I have underlined and numbered the first 6 promises. And then in verse 11 we see the following: “how much more will your Father who is in heaven (7) *give good things to those who ask him*!” 🡪 Saying: Your Father will give you good things.

**The Point:** Surely, the point of this lavish array of promises is to say to us: Come and pray! Your prayers are not in vain. God is not toying with you. He answerers Prayers!!!

1. **God is Available Even When Not Immediately Noticed.**
* Jesus gives us *three varieties of invitations*. Why? The point seems to be that it doesn’t matter where you find God immediately, whether that be close by as if almost touchable (ask), or hard to see and rather distant though proximity is sensed (seek), or finally so far that their might even feel like there is a barrier between you and God (Knock). Either way God hears! He will give good things to those who truly ask, seek, and knock!!! 🡪 Notice that effort is warranted.

**Question:** Do you feel close to God? Do you feel distant from God?

1. **Everyone Who Asks Receives**
* V. 8 says, that “Everyone” who does the things receives God’s promises.
* **Do not be timid or hesitant thinking that this offer is for some but not for you**!!! Jesus is talking to the Children of God (Christians); however, even a lost person today can become a Child of God by receiving the Son of God (Jesus), as their Savior!
1. **Remember that God is Our Father and He Gives Good Gifts.**
* **V. 11 –** This verse implies that God is not only ***our Father***, but that he is better than our earthly father. All mankind is full of sin and selfishness, but God is perfect.Even good fathers on earth give good gifts and common grace to their children, surely our perfect all loving Father will give good gifts to His children when we ask.
1. **Trusting God’s Goodness because God Already Made Us His Children.**
* Another implicit encouragement comes from God reminding us that we are his children and that he is our Father, and even greater than our imperfect earthly fathers.
* **The Point:** God has already given us the greatest gift of making us sons of God (Jn. 1:12).
* If God has already freely made us sons and daughters of God, how much more will he give us what we need!

**Final Question:** Does this mean that everything a child of God asks for he gets?

* If God did everything we asked him to do, we would in effect be God. Surely, you can admit that you should not be God. We are not infinitely wise or infallible.

**Vs. 9-10**: Notice that in these versus even a good earthly father doesn’t give children bad/harmful gifts. **God gives GOOD THINGS**. We must have faith in our all-knowing good father. Commit to Prayer!