

A * S * K!
Matthew 7:7-12

First, how did you do on
last week's "homework" assignment?
For one day, pray and practice
a non-critical spirit toward one
other person.

A * S * K
Building a relationship
with our Heavenly Father

Learning to pray as a
child learns to live!
Asking...Seeking...Knocking...
vs. 6, 7

There is nothing complicated
about Jesus' lesson on prayer.
And, the interesting thing is
that each component of his lesson
is an imperative:
Ask! Seek! Knock!

The first major premise of Jesus'
teaching on prayer is that
we will be heard!

The second major premise is
the universal privilege of prayer.
"Everyone who..." (vs. 7)

Our problem(s) with prayer:
We can act as if God is either
uninformed or unconcerned.

But God is neither
ignorant or reluctant to
hear and answer our prayer.

The problem is really ours:
We need to learn that in prayer
we do not prevail on God,
but rather prevail on ourselves
to submit to God. (JR Stott)
We also behave sometimes
as if prayer is unnecessary.
Since God knows what we need,
why ask?

Since there is an abundance
of things and knowledge,
why ask?

We need to distinguish between:
Creation-gifts and redemptive-gifts.

Creation-gifts are supplied by God,
whether they are acknowledged or not.
But Jesus did tell us to ask for
our daily bread, thus
acknowledging God's gracious provision
when it's received.

Redemptive-gifts are given by God
only to those who call upon His name.
Romans 10:12, 13

*For there is no distinction between
Jew and Greek;
for the same Lord is Lord of all,
abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;
for **“WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD**
*will be saved.”**

Another problem we have is
that we claim that prayer is
unproductive (i.e. unanswered).

First, God should not be seen
as a spiritual genie or Santa Clause.

Second, remember James' admonition:

*You do not have because
you do not ask.
You ask and do not receive,
because you ask with wrong motives,
so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

Lesson's on prayer:

A * S * K

1. Prayer presupposes knowledge (vs.9-12)
2. Prayer presupposes faith
3. Prayer presupposes desire
cf. lessons from the Gospels
 - *Widow who prevail upon a judge
 - *Men who break through a roof
 - *Blind who cry out for mercy
 - *Neighbors who keep asking for bread...
because he kept on knocking!