

THREE WAYS OF RECEIVING THINGS FROM GOD

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Many times when we read the bible, we do not understand what certain passages mean, and when we do not understand, it becomes difficult to apply or appropriate the content. Matthew 7:7-8 is one of those passages in the bible that we do not fully understand. In this study, we are going to throw light on the scripture that we may understand the three ways of receiving things from God revealed in the passage.

Matt 7:7-8

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

NIV

The above passage does not just speak about prayers and much prayers, but ways of receiving things from God. It involves searching, through praying and studying to identify God's will and mind, and rendering service or making sacrifices to get God's attention and meet one's needs.

1. ASK

To ask is to make request or petition God for help and assistance. To ask is to stand upon the promises of God, demanding that He render help and fulfill His promises to you or another. To ask is to make a specific request from God in Jesus name. This includes petitions, intercessions, prophetic praying and binding and loosing.

- We ask the Father in the name of Jesus for our daily needs.
- We ask for specific things.
- We ask according to God's will to obtain an answer.

1 John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him.

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2. SEEK

- To seek is to attempt to find someone or something.
- To seek is to attempt to obtain or do something.
- Seeking involves praying for insight and actually studying to unmask hidden things and gain revelation that will change one's life and fortunes and walk in the perfect will of God.

To seek God is to search out the plan of God for one's life

Jer 29:11-14

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

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1 Kings 22:4-28

4 So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth Gilead?"

Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." 5 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "**First seek the counsel of the LORD.**"

6 So the king of Israel brought together the prophets-about four hundred men-and asked them, "Shall I go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

"Go," they answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand."

7 But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there not a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?"

8 The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah."

"The king should not say that," Jehoshaphat replied.

9 So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once."

10 Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them. 11 Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns and he declared, "This is what the LORD says: `With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.'"

12 All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. "Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious," they said, "for the LORD will give it into the king's hand."

13 The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, "Look, as one man the other prophets are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably."

14 But Micaiah said, "As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell him only what the LORD tells me."

15 When he arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

"Attack and be victorious," he answered, "for the LORD will give it into the king's hand."

16 The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

17 Then Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said, `These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.'"

18 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?"

19 Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. 20 And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?'

"One suggested this, and another that. 21 Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.'

22 " 'By what means?' the LORD asked.

" 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said.

" 'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the LORD. 'Go and do it.'

23 "So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you."

24 Then Zedekiah son of Kenaanah went up and slapped Micaiah in the face. "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go when he went from me to speak to you?" he asked.

25 Micaiah replied, "You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room."

26 The king of Israel then ordered, "Take Micaiah and send him back to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king's son 27 and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.'"

28 Micaiah declared, "If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me." Then he added, "Mark my words, all you people!"

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To seek God is to follow after God and walk in His ways.

Ps 27:4

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

NIV

2 Chron 15:2

2 He went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.

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2 Chron 15:12-13

12 They entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul. 13 All who would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, were to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

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To seek God is to follow after God, depending and relying on Him and Him alone all your life without turning back.

2 Chron 16:12-14

12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the physicians. 13 Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his fathers. 14 They buried him in the tomb that he had cut out for himself in the City of David. They laid him on a bier covered with spices and various blended perfumes, and they made a huge fire in his honor.

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Isa 58:2

2 For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.

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To seek God is to search out the counsel (will) of God with the aim of following it or obeying it.

2 Chron 18:4

4 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "First seek the counsel of the LORD."

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To seek God is to approach God with the aim of obtaining His mercy and favour and have Him meet your needs.

2 Chron 20:4

4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

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HOW TO SEEK AND FIND GOD

- To find God, you must seek Him with all your heart.

Matt 6:33-34

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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- You must seek Him with all sincerity.

Heb 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

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- To find God, you must seek Him as one searching for hidden treasure – you must place a great value on what you are searching for and seek God according to the value you place on it.

Prov 2:1-7

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

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- You seek and find God by searching the scriptures.

John 5:39

39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

KJV

There is a time to seek God and find him and there is a time you cannot find Him.

Isa 55:6

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

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- Prevention is better than cure.
- It is better to seek God before making a decision than seeking Him after the decision has been made and evil consequences being suffered.
- It is better to seek God when God is speaking or has just spoken on an issue or He is making an invitation to you to respond.
- It is better to seek God when the grace of God is still available than when His wrath is poured out.

3. KNOCK

Knocking on God's door is doing more than asking or seeking God's face for help or insight. It is sacrificing something to get God's attention. To knock is to bang or tap on someone's door with the aim of getting the person's attention, and it involves persistence and a resolve to get what one wants. Knocking on God's door therefore, is to do something or keep doing good and spiritual things that will get God's attention and make Him to give you what you want.

You can sacrifice your time, talent, training, property, money to get God's attention. You render service to God by serving at your church with all your heart to get God to answer you. You can serve in any department of the church. You go out of your way to meet other people's needs, you put smiles on other people's faces – interceding for them, giving to meet their needs, settling quarrels between them, helping solve their problems. As you do this, God will see you and look into your own case.

- Jephthah sacrificed the first person or thing to come out of his door to God to secure victory over the Ammonites.

Judg 11:31

31 whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the LORD's, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering."

NIV

- Hannah sacrificed her son yet to be born to God if He will give her a son.

1 Sam 1:9-11

9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. 10 In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. 11 And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

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