

## GOD'S GIFTS ARE ASSURED

By Keith Greer

The Bible clearly teaches us the one thing that matters in life- the proper focus as we journey down the uneven pathways of life. Life is a pilgrimage full of perplexities, problems, obstacles and uncertainties. Our concern is how do we handle these problems when, and they surely will come!

Jesus did not promise to change the circumstances in our lives; nor to remove the difficulties, trials, problems and tribulations we must face. Did He promise roses without thorns? Did He tell us what to expect? Let us discuss some things which can give us "blessed assurance".

In the Lord's Sermon on the Mount, our Lord invites us to pray in Matthew 7:7-11. The invitation is to ASK, to SEEK, and to KNOCK. Are we not being invited to the very throne room of God? Does our Father have the power to answer these requests? Let us see.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." {Matthew 7: 7}

**ASK.** This must be done in earnest with some sense of urgency. The very fact that we ask implies we have faith. Do you expect an answer when you make a request to God? If not, why even bother to ask? We must make our needs known to God.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;" {Philippians 4:6}

**SEEK.** Diligence mingled with persistence. Seeking is asking plus action. One must be actively endeavoring to obtain the fulfillment of his requests. Do we just ask and sit and wait for the answer to drop out of heaven? This is a two-sided proposition.

What if I pray for an increase for a deeper and richer understanding of God's word? How can I help God grant my request? Please read John 5:39; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15.

Pray to strive to live my life more closely to God's will. How can I help gain this request? Please read Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23; John 14:15. See my point?

**KNOCK.** Persevering. Knocking is asking plus action plus persevering. Persistence in the face of adversity. Don't give up--keep trying! Read Luke 18:2-7

Look at the promise given by Christ in the next passage. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." {Matthew 7:8}

Ask--given--seek--find--knock--it shall be opened! What greater assurance could one have than the Son of God's promise?

What makes this promise so assured? The one who gave it! Look at the next passages.

"Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 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!  
" {Matthew 7:9-11}

Would a parent, who truly loves his children, ever give something evil or harmful to one of them? Never! Jesus therefore argues from the lesser to the greater: If we would never do that why should God ever give anything less than good gifts to His children? Simple isn't it?

Why would one not ASK God? Could it be they might not believe? Unfortunately, many of God's people fail to use one of His greatest gifts given to His children—to communicate with Him. Do we understand only those who are in His family, spiritually born into that family, have the right and privilege of addressing Him as "Our Father in heaven." Who understands man better or has more ability to help than God? Dear readers, have you given thought to pray? \*\*\*