

## **Praying Constantly and Confidently** **Matthew 7:7-11**

### **I. We Must Be Constant in Our Praying (vs. 7)**

Hebrews 11:6

James 1:2-4

Kent Hughes has observed that:

We naturally persevere in our prayers when someone close to us is sick. If one of our children becomes ill, we pray without ceasing. Likewise, if we are in financial trouble or if we are hoping for a promotion or if we have a frightening or dangerous task ahead of us, we generally find it easy to pray.

But do we persist in prayers for spiritual growth for ourselves or for others? Do we “ask... seek... knock” for a pure mind? Do we keep on knocking for a forgiving spirit or for the removal of an angry or critical spirit? I think that Christians usually do not! Consider what would happen if God's people understood what Christ is saying here and put it to work. (*The Sermon on the Mount*, p. 235)

### **II. We Must Be Confident in Our Praying (vss. 7-11)**

#### **1. We must be confident that God will answer our prayers. (vss. 7-8)**

The Immediate Context of the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 6:9-13; 7:1-6

The Larger Context of New Testament Scripture: James 1:5; 4:2a-3; 1 John 5:14-15

#### **2. We must be confident that God will answer our prayers in a manner that is best for us. (vss. 9-11)**

Kent Hughes may be on the right track in capturing the point of the examples Jesus gives us:

In the Galilean setting for the giving of the Sermon on the Mount, the people were familiar with the flat stones by the shore that looked exactly like their round, flat cakes of bread, and with fish (more likely eels) that looked very much like snakes. Can you imagine your son coming to tell you he is hungry and you give him a stone instead of bread? “Here son, enjoy!” you say mockingly as he cracks his teeth. “Oh, you didn't like that? Here, have a fish,” and you give him a harmful snake or eel. No first-century father would be as ignorant or cruel. (*The Sermon on the Mount*, p. 237)

See also Luke 11:9-13.