

Matthew 7:7-11

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

9 Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11 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 what is good to those who ask Him!

Why do some people...

Succeed in having their prayers answered?

Have a greater understanding of the Bible?

Reach more souls for Christ?

-- Is it skill, genius, or luck?

The answer is suggested by
Calvin Coolidge:

"Press on! Nothing in the world can take
the place of perseverance.

Talent will not; nothing is more common
than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost
a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of
educated derelicts."

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus talked
about the virtue of perseverance...

Especially in its relevance to prayer

Giving us motivation to persevere in our
service to God

Matthew 7:7-11

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

PERSEVERANCE IS IMPLIED IN THESE VERSES...

By the tense of the Greek

It is the present tense, which most often stresses "continuous action"

Literally, then, Jesus is saying:

- 1) "keep on asking," and it will be given to you
- 2) "keep on seeking," and you will find
- 3) "keep on knocking," and it will be opened to you

By the progression of the terms themselves

"asking" is one level of inquiry

"seeking" suggests a step up, as one goes about to find what they ask

(asking plus action,)

"knocking" is another step up, as one persists in finding that which they seek

(asking plus action plus persevering,)

PERSEVERANCE IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT...

To the matter of "prayer"

As later implied in Mt 7:11

Jesus often stressed persistence in
teaching on prayer

- 1) In the parable of "The Persistent Friend" - Lk 11:5-8
- 2) In the parable of "The Persistent Widow" - Lk 18:1-8

11 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 what is good to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:5-8

5 Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

...and behold
...shall be destroyed
...the salvation of the wicked shall be cut off.
...their strength in the time of trouble.
...and the Lord shall help them, and deliver them,
...because they trust in his

Luke 18:1-8

18 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’”

4 For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'”

6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge *said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

To the matter of "Bible study"

Many people give up too soon in their Bible studies, but those who persevere in their studies are the ones who benefit from the blessings God's Word provides -

Ps 1:1-3;119:97-104

Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

Psalm 1:1-3

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalm 119:97-105

97 O how I love Your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,
For they are ever mine.

99 I have more insight than all my teachers,
For Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged,
Because I have observed Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil
way,

That I may keep Your word.

102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances,
For You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 From Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

To the matter of "evangelism"

Many do not bear fruit because they
give up too soon

But we reap what we sow; the more
persistent we are in
sowing, the more we will eventually
reap

