



A Sports Ministry of Trinity Fellowship Church

We Swim for Jesus!

“And so it is with prayer – keep on asking and you will keep on getting; keep on looking and you will keep on finding; knock and the door will be opened. Everyone who asks, receives; all who seek, find; and the door is opened to everyone who knocks.”

Luke 11:9-10

Bible Verse for Week #37

Life Application notes

1. Jesus said these words right after giving the illustration of a person persisting in asking a friend for bread in the middle of the night (Luke 11:5-8). Persistence, or boldness, in prayer overcomes our insensitivity, not God's. To practice persistence does more to change our hearts and minds than His, and it helps us understand and express the intensity of our need. Persistence in prayer helps us recognize God's work. So keep praying.
2. Some people wonder why God doesn't answer prayer. In reality, this often means they have hardly given God a chance; they have prayed a few times and not gotten what they expected. God promises to give if we ask, but He expects us to ask and to keep on asking. Prayer should be an integral part of our lives, not just practiced in emergencies. Talk to God about everything, all day long.
3. God promises that those who seek Him will find Him. This is a wonderful promise to share with people who aren't yet believers but seem sincere in their search for the truth. After sharing the message of Christ, encourage them to keep seeking, and let them know you are confident that they will find the Lord.
4. Closed doors can be frustrating, especially when we think they can open to great opportunities. A door can be a relationship, a job or career, an answer to a difficult question, an investment, or another personal opportunity. God tells us that when the door is closed, we should keep knocking in prayer, asking God to open the door or to show us another way. And that's exactly what God will do. Then when the door opens or we see his alternate route, we must step out in faith and take it.

8144 Terre Bleue Drive, P.O. Box 330, Bonne Terre, Missouri 63628

Office/Fax: 573-358-7727 * Office Cell: 573-366-0410

E-Mail: programs@loveswimming.org * Website: <http://www.loveswimming.org>

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

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5. Does this verse promise that we will receive everything we ask for? No. God is not a celestial Santa Claus or genie who exists only for the purpose of granting our wishes. The verses following this passage point out that God is like a loving father who wants to give us good gifts (Luke 11:11-13). So He won't give us anything that will hurt us, even though we might ask Him. Jesus' point is that we must ask, telling God our deepest desires and wishes, opening up ourselves to Him. When we do this, He will work on the inside, changing our desires to conform to His (Phil. 2:12-13). Ask God for anything, but be ready for His answer of "no" or "wait". And when you receive His good gifts, don't forget to thank Him.

6. God loves us and wants to have a close, personal relationship with us. Every close relationship involves communication: talking, writing, listening, asking, and answering. Sometimes we want our relationship with God to go one way – we expect Him to be close and ready to answer our every whim, but we don't want to spend any time with Him. Instead, we should take time getting to know God – reading His Word and praying. When that happens, we will know what to ask for, where to look, and what doors to try.

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