



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

### Jesus Christ Instruction Regarding Prayer!

**Scripture:** Matt. 7:7- Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Matthew 7:7 is not a guarantee that we can get anything we want simply by asking Jesus and believing. God does not grant requests that would hurt us or others or that violate His own nature or will. Jesus' statement is not a blank check. To be fulfilled, our request must be in harmony with the principles of God's Kingdom. The stronger our belief, the more likely our prayers will be in line with God's will, and then God will be happy to grant them. **If you are truly seeking God's will, there are some requests you will not make.** Jesus, our example, once prayed, "All things are possible unto thee; . . . nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt" (Mark 14:36). Our prayers are often motivated by our own interests and desires. We like to hear that we can have anything. But Jesus prayed with God's interests in mind.

When Jesus says we can ask for anything, we must remember that our asking must be in His name—that is, according to God's character and will. God will not grant requests contrary to His nature or His will, and we cannot use His name as a magic formula to fulfill our selfish desires. If we are sincerely following God and seeking to do His will, then our request will be in line with what He wants, and He will grant them. Moreover, we need to ask Him for wisdom, and He will supply what we need and guide our choices. Solomon is a prime example when he asked God to give him wisdom and knowledge so that he might judge God's people (2 Chronicles 1:10). God is willing to give us this wisdom, but we will be unable to receive it if our goals are self-centered instead of God-centered. **To learn God's will, we need to read God's Word and ask Him to show us how to obey it.** Then we must do what He tells us.

The true Christian behavior—putting on the new nature by accepting Christ and regarding the old nature as dead. We change our moral and ethical behavior by letting Christ live within us, so that he can shape us into what we should be. God sent Jeremiah down to the potter's house so he can see what he does to the clay when it is ruined. *"Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel"* (Jeremiah 5:6). That's what God wants to do with us, shape and mold us.

God will not forget His people, even though you might drift far away from Him. Jeremiah 3:14 tells us what God told him to say to Israel, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you." In times of deep trouble, it may seem that God has forgotten you. God can be sought and found when we seek Him urgently and wholeheartedly. Neither troubles, sorrows, frustration, nor physical problems can break our communion with Him. Paul says, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39). There is one sure remedy for a world that is sick and dying in sin—seek God and live. Sin seeks to destroy, but hope is found in seeking God. In times of difficulty, seek God. In personal discomfort and struggle, seek God. **When others are struggling, encourage them to seek God too.** God promises to answer us when we ask Him, and seek after Him and He shall say, Here I am, and the door will be opened unto us, and show us great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

In the Book of Revelation, the Laodicean church was complacent and rich. They felt self-satisfied, but they didn't have Christ's presence among them. He knocked at the door of their hearts, but they were so busy enjoying worldly pressures that they didn't notice that he was trying to enter (Revelation 3:14-20). The pleasures of this world—money, security, material possessions—can be dangerous, because their temporary satisfaction makes us indifferent to God's offer of lasting satisfaction. **If you find yourself feeling indifferent to church, to God, or to the Bible, you have begun to shut God out of your life.** Leave the door of your heart constantly open to God and you won't need to worry about missing His knock. Letting Him in is your only hope for lasting fulfillment. Jesus tells us to persist in pursuing God. People often give up after a few halfhearted efforts and conclude that God cannot be found. But knowing God takes faith, focus, and follow-through, and Jesus assures us that our efforts will be rewarded. Don't give up in your efforts to seek God. **Continue to ask him for more knowledge, patience, wisdom, love, and understanding.** He will give them to you.

**May you be blessed with these encouraging Words of God!**