**Wonderful Words of Life: The Sermon on the Mount**

**“Ask, Seek, Knock”**

**Matthew 7: 7-8**

**BIG IDEA: What Jesus has to say to us in these verses (7-8) - if understood correctly are great hope, encouragement, transforming, and life giving**

**What Jesus promises us in these verses is of infinitely more value than a blank check for prosperity, happiness, health, and wealth. They mean something altogether \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**These words from Jesus are a great and wonderful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness.**

**When Jesus promises what He does in these verses, He has in mind all that He has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us thus far in the Sermon on the Mount.**

**These verses are an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus for those who recognize their spiritual need: to ask, seek, and persist - knowing that the Lord will answer your heart’s prayer to be made more like Him.**

**When Jesus instructs us to ask, seek, and knock, He is saying “come to me and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up what you are lacking”.**

**Those who see their spiritual need and long to be made like Christ and in response thrust themselves on His grace asking for His work in their life will receive that answer to their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**In verse 7, Jesus is using repetition to show us something important: our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Those who know they are poor in Spirit are the ones who will ask Jesus for the fruits of righteousness that He has been discussing to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ evident in their lives - first in salvation and then in continued growth and Christlikeness.**

**Asking, seeking, and knocking are all words to describe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**We don’t ever outgrow the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and our need for God’s continued work in our hearts.**

**When you seek you are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ diligently for something.**

**The language of each of these words (ask, seek, knock) are all in the command for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ action: i.e. “keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking”.**

**When Jesus says “knock”, He is telling us that we need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our prayers for these spiritual realities to be seen in our lives.**

**My prayers – my asking of the Lord, seeking of the Lord, and continued perseverance in these things - are the means by which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intends to say “yes” to these requests.**

**Application**

**If you have felt the weight of Jesus’s words and found yourself crying desperately “I can’t do it! I can’t!”, then, let it be an arrow that points you to Christ. See your need and turn to Him as the only one who can make you right before God – through faith and repentance as you trust Him for salvation.**

**And then continue to turn to Him asking, seeking, knocking that He would work to make you increasingly into the image of God. He will surely do it!**

Blanks: greater; treasure; taught; invitation; fill; prayer; neediness; increasingly; prayer; gospel; searching; continuing; perseverance; God;

Congregational Scripture Reading – Psalm 34: 4-10

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.