

PRAY FOR LOVING DISCERNMENT
(Matthew 7:7-12)

- I. Kingdom Living Is ENABLED by God's PROMISE to Us (Matt. 7:7-8)
 - A. Instructions are stated TWICE
 - 1. The one who ASKS will RECEIVE
 - 2. The one who SEEKS will FIND
 - 3. The one who KNOCKS will have it OPENED
 - B. Promise is made to BELIEVERS
 - 1. It does not apply to all PEOPLE without DISTINCTION
 - 2. It applies to all BELIEVERS without EXCEPTION (cf. James 4:2)
 - C. Promise assumes the intent to OBEY (cf. 1 John 3:22)
 - D. Promise depends on right MOTIVES (cf. James 4:3)
 - E. Promise expects undiluted LOYALTY (Matt. 6:24; cf. James 1:7-8)
 - F. Promise reflects our CONSTANT need for His AID

- II. Kingdom Living Is DEPICTED by God's PATTERN for Us (Matt. 7:9-11)
 - A. Applies to ANY FATHER

1. He would give his son a LOAF, not a STONE

2. He would give his son a FISH, not a SNAKE

B. Compares to GOD THE FATHER

1. Human fathers, by nature EVIL, still know to give GOOD gifts to their CHILDREN

2. Your Father in HEAVEN is PERFECT, and will ALWAYS “give what is GOOD” to those who ASK

III. Kingdom Living Is DEMANDED by God’s PURPOSE in Us (Matt. 7:12)

A. Many have stated this principle NEGATIVELY

B. Only Jesus included doing POSITIVE GOOD for others

1. It encompasses quantity: “in EVERYTHING”

2. Motive is NOT so that you will be treated BETTER

3. Motive is to OBEY GOD