Dear Open Door Family,

How often do we give up on something? How often do we try something until it gets hard or tedious and then we give up? I grew up being taught that it was a whole lot worse to give up and quit trying than it was to work hard and fail while doing your best. This applied to sports, studies, work, and life in general. However, I don't remember that we ever talked about never quitting when it came to pursuing God in our daily lives. Let's look at these verses together.

Matthew 7:7-8 *(NIV) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Matthew 7:7-8 *(NLT) "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

I have always interpreted these verses in light of physical or financial needs. It seemed like the normal thing to do. The context seems to include physical necessities but it certainly is not limited only to that. It is easy to bring what I want to see to a verse and interpret it in the light of my own wants and desires. As I look at what is being said in these verses it seems that the importance of what Jesus is teaching is the idea of Persistence in Prayer. The reality that we must NOT Give Up but continuing on in our pursuit of God.

Life Application Bible Notes: 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 perseverance. Don't give up in your efforts to seek God, even when the doors seem closed.

PRAYER: Lord, help me in faith to focus on You and to keep on pursuing You and knowing You. Please, help me to be more interested in knowing You better than in having any physical or financial problem taken away. May I see Past My own wants and desires to YOU. May I seek You and NOT just Your blessings and gifts.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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