

The Scriptures encourage us to continue praying and not to give up



Yeshua: *7"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. 8For everyone who asks (and keeps on asking), receives. Everyone who seeks (and keeps on seeking), finds. And to everyone who knocks (and keeps on knocking), the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8*

Ask & Keep on Asking...

The Bible starts one of Yeshua's parables with the phrase: *One day Yeshua told his disciples a story to show that they should **always pray** and **never give up**.* (Luke 18:1) These are encouraging words as I have a consistent temptation to shrink back on my praying when I feel as though it's not working. But, that's not what the Scriptures (or even my experience if I think about it) speaks of. In fact, in the Sermon on the Mount passage above,

Yeshua encourages us to ask and keep on asking (the verbs here are in the continual present tense) and promises that we will receive if we do. The key is that we need to be persistent to continue asking and pray through.

My son's nightly prayers have taught me much about the way God answers. Yesterday my son had the fulfillment of a longstanding (over a year) nightly prayer for a cell phone. All the stars seemed to unexpectedly (for Jess and I) align and voila the truly unanticipated happened...and we got a great deal for new phones for the kids and a family plan. Before that, my son had prayed for a dog nightly for two years plus, and we rather amazingly received a dog that has become a great blessing to the family. In both of these instances the answer came suddenly, and in a very unexpected way.

Last night Jess and I talked about how these cosmic prayer alignments (on something so small as a cell phone and slightly bigger for a dog) have been an encouragement to us to keep praying for other more important, unanswered (as of yet) prayers--one of which Jess has been praying consistently for for nearly 40 years! We all have a number of prayers that we are still waiting for the answer. I believe that Yah is saying to us, "don't lose heart, but keep talking to me about what's on your heart!" He wants relationship with us, and He encourages us to talk to Him about everything both big and small (Phil 4:6-7)

Here are some closing thoughts on asking and keeping on asking:

- we need others to help us pray through--especially as there are times when we lose heart and want to give up. We were never intended to carry our prayer burdens alone. We need community and others actively around us to join with us. And having others join with us brings greater spiritual firepower.
- some prayer vials (see Rev. 5:8) are bigger and take more time and prayer volume to fill up before the answer comes. Praying for my headache to go away is a smaller vial than praying for an awakening in Colorado. It is interesting to note that for me personally I have at times gotten the most discouraged by small requests that were delayed or not

answered. I initially felt that if such a small prayer goes unanswered what does that say about my perceived lack of faith or godliness.

- sometimes the answer is no. Paul prayed for something to be taken away three times that God didn't answer (see 2 Cor 12:7-9) I also remember a prayer that I fervently wanted that God said no to in a very clear and persistent way. Only in hindsight did I gain perspective on God's wisdom for that answer. Sometimes it might take eternity to understand God's wisdom and goodness in his "no's" to us in the midst of our desires. Even Yeshua had an unanswered prayer that He submitted to the Father's will (Mark 14:36).

In closing, dear saints let's not lose heart and continue to ask and keep on asking. Yah hears every prayer and wants us to continue in relationship and conversation with Him. Let's talk to Him about the little things and the big things and let's continue joining together to help shoulder each others' burdens as we wait for God's answers to come.