

The Body of Christ: Seven Steps Towards Fruitfulness. - Never knowingly shared

Matthew 7 verses 7-12

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11 So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! 12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

When we ask it will be given to us, when we seek we shall find, when we knock it shall be opened. To follow are seven steps towards enriching our spiritual lives.

1. Hearing, Listening

Proverbs 2 verse 1-6

My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom; incline your heart to understanding. 3 For if you cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Isaiah 55 verse 1-3

You there! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. 3 Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.

Luke 8 verse 18-21

So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him."

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19 Now His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. 20 And it was reported to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You."

21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

2. Seeing, Understanding

Proverbs 1 verse 2-6

To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice, and integrity; 4 To give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion, 5 A wise person will hear and increase in learning, and a person of understanding will acquire wise counsel, 6 to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

Proverbs 3 verse 5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

Isaiah 11 verse 2

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3. Believing, Being Convicted

John 14 verse 12

Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father.

Matthew 21 verse 20-22

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. 22 And whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive it all."

4. Faith Created in us

Genesis 12 verse 1-4

Now the Lord said to Abram, "go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." 4 So Abram went away as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Romans 10 verse 15-17

But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!" 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Acts 2 verse 38 -42

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on urging them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

5. Active Faith and Obedience

Acts 3 verses 4-10

But Peter, along with John, looked at him intently and said, "Look at us!" 5 And he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I do not have silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!"

7 And grasping him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God; 10 and they recognized him as being the very one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg for charitable gifts, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

6. Expectancy - Await Things To Happen

Isaiah 51 verse 4-6

"Pay attention to Me, My people, and listen to Me, My nation; for a law will go out from Me, and I will bring My justice as a light of the peoples. 5 My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait for Me, and they will wait expectantly for My arm. 6 Raise your eyes to the sky, then look to the earth beneath; for the sky will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants will die in the same way. But My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not fail.

Hebrews 11 verse 6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.

7. Perseverance - The Time Factor

Romans 12 verse 9-13

Love must be free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Romans 15 verse 1-6

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not just please ourselves. 2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

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3 For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: "The taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on Me." 4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1 verse 5-11

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For the one who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choice of you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

There is an impotency in our walk or our work, when we fail to observe God's process of growth, or, how He does things. The seven things worked through (all seven that is) will cause us to become more fruitful. We have eyes and ears, visible ones. We need to learn how to see and to hear by our invisible spiritual eyes and ears.

We need to have holy spirit sense or sensitivity, but how do we get this? Our minds and our feelings have been taught and trained for many years prior to being born again by the Spirit of God. We are urged by Paul to present our bodies and our minds for renewal.

Romans 12 verse 1-3

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

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2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Our minds are to be focused on the things above.

Colossians.3 verse 2

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

We are to use our minds in a new way, a repentant mind is a changed mind and a changed mind comes from a repentant heart that has heard the word of Christ. Faith is created on the inside. We are to use our minds in a new way, seeking and looking, picturing the heavenly realm and not the natural earthly realm. A new diet is prescribed by the Lord, feed that new life and starve the old. The old mind is stained and is to be cleansed and renewed, this work is called restoration. All things are to be fixed in this way and we can dare to believe that God will do it!

Acts 3 verse 16-21

And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers also did. 18 But the things which God previously announced by the mouths of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled in this way. 19 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times.

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Do not feed your mind with old, stale and unrighteous food. Too much cholesterol in our natural food destroys the arteries of our body, the blood flow slows up and heart failure or a stroke will disable, even kill, the body. In the same way when we indulge in too much unrighteous food then our spiritual life is likely to fail. What sort of food is bad for spiritual living?

1 John 2 verse 15 -17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.

Too many things that cause us sensual excitement and consume our hearts and minds, take up our time and neither feed nor edify our spirit. Not submitting to authority, being resentful or bitter, unforgiving and not being open to the discipline and correction of the Lord may render us useless in the Kingdom of God. To hear and to do His will pleases the Lord. To hear and to not do will not please God and result in us being frustrated for our sin of disobedience. So if you want to be blessed, see what Jesus said in the final text.

Luke 11 verse 28

While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that carried You, and the breasts at which You nursed!" 28 But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and follow it."