

SEEK AND FIND

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. (Matthew 7:7)

On Sunday nights Coral has a two-hour basketball practice at the University of Guelph. Due to COVID-19 only players and coaches can be inside the gym. In other years I would be inside the gym sitting in the bleachers with a coffee in hand watching Coral practice. Without being let inside this year I usually go to a nearby McDonalds and do some work while having a coffee.

Last week I was done my work fairly quickly and I still had another hour to wait for Coral to finish her practice. I decided to return to the university and go for a walk around the campus. As I was walking, I was praying asking God to help Coral learn and develop her skills that night. I also started sharing with God how much I missed seeing Coral play and practice and how I wished I could see her work out with this new team.

Shortly after praying that part of the prayer, I found myself nearing the Athletic Centre where Coral's team was practicing. I felt a nudge from God to just keep walking so I did. I turned the corner around the Athletic Centre and found a set of stairs I did not know existed. I climbed the set of stairs and at the top was a set of windows looking down over the gym in which Coral was practicing. For the next 45 minutes I was able to watch Coral practice, just like old times.

Coral could not see me, but I saw her which made me smile greatly. After the practice Coral came out to the car and I told her that I saw the last 45 minutes of the practice. She was so excited because she has been saying for the past few weeks, "I wish you could see me in there, Dad."

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.

These words from Jesus held true for me on that Sunday night. I asked in a prayer what I wanted. God had me keep walking and seeking what was at the top of the stairs. A door was not opened in my case, but a window was open that allowed me to watch Coral practice.

Jesus spoke these words as part of His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. The point that Jesus was making here is the importance of staying persistent when it comes to pursuing God. So many times, people give up on finding God in their lives after a few half-hearted efforts and think He cannot be found. Others will give up and stop asking God for something in prayer after just a few attempts of doing so. Some others will think a certain door or opportunity can't be opened by God and give up believing it will happen. A true and meaningful relationship with God requires more than just a few half-hearted prayers or efforts on our part. A true relationship with God requires faith, focus, time, effort, and follow-through on our part. Jesus assured us in His teaching that we will be rewarded if we stay persistent in our relationship with Him.

In other years I would not have had to ask God to help me find a way to see Coral practice. COVID-19 has put a lot of restrictions and barriers on us that were never there before. After experiencing what I did on that Sunday night, I can't help but wonder if we are going to need to be doing MORE ASKING, MORE SEEKING AND MORE KNOCKING in our prayers to God. This pandemic has been taking away a lot of people's hope, patience, and strength. When we feel ourselves in need of these things, it is so important for us to take the time to ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK:

- SEEK AND ASK God for hope on those days when we are feeling hopeless and discouraged,
- SEEK AND ASK for God's wisdom and guidance when we are finding ourselves becoming increasingly impatient,
- SEEK AND ASK for God's strength on those days we are feeling weak,
- SEEK AND ASK for God's love when we are finding ourselves filling with anger,
- SEEK AND ASK for God's endurance and perseverance when we find ourselves wanting to give up.

If we keep on SEEKING, ASKING AND KNOCKING, Jesus tells us God will give us these things. May we keep this truth and lesson in our hearts because the longer this pandemic goes on, the more and more we will find ourselves some days in need of these things.

It is a truth I experienced on Sunday night in Guelph. I was rewarded by seeing my daughter practice. She was rewarded by knowing I got to see her despite the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic. We both were rewarded with a smile in the midst of this pandemic. We needed this and all of us need moments of uplifting like this right now. KEEP ASKING, KEEP SEEKING, KEEP KNOCKING AND KNOW THAT GOD WILL REWARD YOUR EFFORTS BY OPENING A DOOR OR A WINDOW TO THEM.

God Bless and Keep Safe!

Pastor Dean