

Opening the Flood Gates of Prayer: *Pick-axe Breakthrough Prayer* Message Outline

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-8 NRSV

⁷“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

The Five Breakthrough Prayers

- 1. Upsurge BTP** *“Lead me to a rock that is higher than I.” Psalm 61:2*
- 2. Do Not Be Afraid BTP** *“Be Not Afraid, for I am with you.” Isaiah 41:10*
- 3. Let There Be Light BTP** *“Let there be light.” Genesis 1:3-4*
- 4. Holy Surrender BTP** *“Thy will be done.” Matthew 6:10*
- 5. Today: Pick-axe BTP** *“Keep asking, Keep seeking and Keep knocking.” Matthew 7:7*

You use a pick-axe when you have a lot of hard ground to break up. The Pick-axe Prayer is the prayer of tenacity: never stopping always praying!

Alternate Translation of Matthew 7:7 based on New American Standard footnotes

*“Keep asking and it will be given to you; keep seeking and you will find;
keep knocking and the door will be open for you.”*

The Pick-axe prayer is a multidimensional prayer.

1. Not only is it a tenacious prayer.
2. It is a prayer without ceasing.
3. It will only work when we empty ourselves of our stuff and seek God’s will.
4. It is about giving God our best because God has given us His best in Jesus Christ.

We must pray this prayer with the right motives.

We must not use this prayer out of anger, resentment, hurt, jealousy or revenge. Again that is why the prayer of Holy Surrender prayed alongside of the Pick-axe prayer is so beneficial. “Lord, not my will be done; but your will be done.

“By this practice of diligently asking God, seeking to empty yourself in order discover and discern, and daring to keep knocking with your prayers against what seems like firm resistance, new breakthroughs are bound to emerge.” -Sue Nilson Kibbey

Let us look at our Prayer hold words that can keep us keep us asking, knocking, keep us seeking.

Prayer-hold Words

Continue - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 *“pray without ceasing”*

We are people of the microwave, fast food, next day delivery from Amazon. If we don't have it know then we give up and give in. The pray-hold word – Continue reminds to not give up, not give in but to “pray without ceasing.”

Forward – Ph 3:13-14 *“...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goals to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Jesus Christ.”*

One of the wonderful benefits of prayer is that it grounds us in the present. To live fully in the here and know knowing that God holds and is in charge of the future. So when we use the Prayer-hold word “Forward” we are reminding ourselves to press on to the finish-line, don't give up.

Endure – Lk 21:19 *“By your endurance you will gain your lives.”*

Live is a marathon not a sprint. It is full of ups and full of downs. The Pray-hold word, “Endure” reminds us to lean into God for our strength. To keep us pointed to God through our pick-axe prayer. To help us look for God's markers to help us stay the course.

Remember – 2 Tm 1:3 *“...night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.”*

When I sit down and do my daily devotion and prayers I have a list of people that I am pray for each day by name. I pray for my Doctor of Ministry Classmates. I pray for the chairs of our committees and ministry team. For our Staff. For all the Powerhouse teachers and helpers. For those on our prayer list. For my students from our student prayer cards. For our college. I pray daily for around 50 people. I “remember” them and their situations by lifting them up to God.

Faithful – 1 Th 5:24 *“The one who is calling is faithful and he will do it.”*

This is not a reminder for us to be faithful with our prayers. It is a reminder that God is faithful. We can trust God with our very existence. We can trust that God will be faithful and bring us through this Coronavirus.

Prayer Challenge

For the next week pray using this prayer practice when facing a particular challenge, decision, or situation that has no obvious immediate solution to apply or path to take.